



HOLY CROSS

GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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

Sunday, September 24, 2023

1st Sunday of Luke

St. Thekla the Great Martyr

Eothinon/Orthros Gospel: Fifth (Luke 24:12-35)

Mode of the Week: Grave/Βαρύς

QR Codes (scan with smart phone for service texts)

Orthros



Divine Liturgy



Upcoming Schedule

<i>Today, September 24</i>	9:15am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy on the 1 st Sunday of Luke and the Feast of St. Thekla the Great Martyr Sunday School for the Youth following Holy Communion Coffee Fellowship in the Parish House after the Liturgy Greek School (Youth)/Bible Study (Adults) 12:45pm 3:00pm Not-So-Young-Adult Hike at Amerson Park in Macon
<i>Tuesday, September 26</i>	9:30am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy on the Feast of St. John the Evangelist 6:45pm Parish Council Meeting
<i>Wednesday, September 27</i>	5:45pm Vespers 6:30pm Adult Study: Orthodoxy 101 in the Parish House
<i>Saturday, September 30</i>	8:30am Festival Preparations (Dolmades and Property Clean-Up) 4:00pm Byzantine Chant Class 5:00pm Great Vespers 6:30pm Young Adult Ministry Get-Together (in Perry)
<i>Sunday, October 1</i>	9:15am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy on the 2 nd Sunday of Luke and the Feast of St. Romanos the Melodist Sunday School for the Youth following Holy Communion Coffee Fellowship in the Parish House after the Liturgy 12:45pm Adult Greek School
<i>Wednesday, October 4</i>	5:45pm Vespers 6:30pm Choir Practice
<i>Sunday, October 8</i>	9:15am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy on the 3 rd Sunday of Luke Sunday School for the Youth following Holy Communion Coffee Fellowship in the Parish House after the Liturgy Greek School (Youth)/Bible Study (Adults) 12:45pm
<i>Monday, October 9</i>	Columbus Day—Office Closed
<i>Wednesday, October 11</i>	5:45pm Vespers 6:30pm Adult Study: Orthodoxy 101 in the Parish House
<i>Saturday, October 14</i>	9:00am Parish Clean-Up (Festival Prep) 4:00pm Byzantine Chant Class 5:00pm Great Vespers

Upcoming Epistle Readers: (10/1) Pete Tsamolias, Nadia Cazacu; (10/8) Kostas Iakovidis, Mike Cantrell
Upcoming PC Member On-Duty: (10/1) Gray Yates; (10/8) Maria McCluskey; (10/15) John Apostolou
Upcoming Ushers: (9/26) Joanna P.; (9/27) OPEN; (9/30) David Z.; October Ushers TBA
Upcoming Video Operators: (10/1) Natalia S.; (10/8) Cristina L.; (10/15) David Z.; (10/22) Gray Y./David N.
Upcoming Fellowship Hosts: (10/1) Danai Esquivel; (10/8) Eleni Adams; (10/15) Mariana Filimon

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

Θαυμαστός ὁ Θεὸς ἐν τοῖς ἁγίοις
αὐτοῦ.

Στίχ. Ἐν ἐκκλησίαις εὐλογεῖτε τὸν
Θεόν.

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Πρὸς Τιμόθεον Β' Ἐπιστολῆς
Παύλου τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα.

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Τέκνον Τιμόθεε,
παρηκολούθηκάς μου τῇ
διδασκαλίᾳ, τῇ ἀγωγῇ, τῇ
προθέσει, τῇ πίστει, τῇ
μακροθυμίᾳ, τῇ ἀγάπῃ, τῇ
ὑπομονῇ, τοῖς διωγμοῖς, τοῖς
παθήμασιν, οἷά μοι ἐγένοντο ἐν
Ἀντιοχείᾳ, ἐν Ἰκονίῳ, ἐν
Λύστροις· οἷους διωγμοὺς
ὑπήνεγκα καὶ ἐκ πάντων με
ἐρρύσατο ὁ Κύριος. Καὶ πάντες
δὲ οἱ θέλοντες εὐσεβῶς ζῆν ἐν
Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ διωχθήσονται·
πονηροὶ δὲ ἄνθρωποι καὶ γόητες
προκόψουσιν ἐπὶ τὸ χειρὸν,
πλανῶντες καὶ πλανώμενοι. Σὺ
δὲ μένε ἐν οἷς ἔμαθες καὶ
ἐπιστάθης, εἰδὼς παρὰ τίνος
ἔμαθες, καὶ ὅτι ἀπὸ βρέφους τὰ
ιερά γράμματα οἶδας, τὰ
δυνάμενά σε σοφίσει εἰς
σωτηρίαν διὰ πίστεως τῆς ἐν
Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ τῷ Κυρίῳ ἡμῶν.

God is wondrous in His saints.

*Verse: Bless God in the
churches. (Psalm 67)*

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*The reading is from Paul's
Second Letter to Timothy.*

(3:10-15)

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Timothy, my son, you have observed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, my persecutions, my sufferings, what befell me at Antioch, at Iconion, and at Lystra, what persecutions I endured; yet from them all the Lord rescued me. Indeed all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while evil men and impostors will go on from bad to worse, deceivers and deceived. But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings which are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

The Holy Gospel Reading according to St. Luke (5:1-11)

1st Sunday of Luke

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, ἐστῶς ὁ Ἰησοῦς παρὰ τὴν λίμνην Γεννησαρέτ, εἶδε δύο πλοῖα ἐστῶτα παρὰ τὴν λίμνην· οἱ δὲ ἄλιεῖς ἀποβάντες ἀπ' αὐτῶν ἀπέπλυνον τὰ δίκτυα. ἐμβὰς δὲ εἰς ἓν τῶν πλοίων, ὃ ἦν Σίμωνος, ἠρώτησεν αὐτὸν ἀπὸ τῆς γῆς ἐπαναγαγεῖν ὀλίγον· καὶ καθίσας ἐδίδασκεν ἐκ τοῦ πλοίου τοὺς ὄχλους, ὡς δὲ ἐπαύσατο λαλῶν, εἶπε πρὸς τὸν Σίμωνα· Ἐπανάγαγε εἰς τὸ βάθος καὶ χαλάσατε τὰ δίκτυα ὑμῶν εἰς ἄγραν. καὶ ἀποκριθεὶς Σίμων εἶπεν αὐτῷ· Ἐπιστάτα, δι' ὅλης νυκτὸς κοπιάσαντες οὐδὲν ἐλάβομεν· ἐπὶ δὲ τῷ ῥήματί σου χαλάσω τὸ δίκτυον. καὶ τοῦτο ποιήσαντες συνέκλεισαν πλῆθος ἰχθύων πολὺ· διερρήγγυτο δὲ τὸ δίκτυον αὐτῶν. καὶ κατένευσαν τοῖς μετόχοις τοῖς ἐν τῷ ἑτέρῳ πλοίῳ τοῦ ἐλθόντας συλλαβέσθαι αὐτοῖς· καὶ ἦλθον, καὶ ἔπλησαν ἀμφοτέρω τὰ πλοῖα, ὥστε βυθίζεσθαι αὐτά. ἰδὼν δὲ Σίμων Πέτρος προσέπεσε τοῖς γόνασιν Ἰησοῦ λέγων· Ἐξελθε ἀπ' ἐμοῦ, ὅτι ἄνηρ ἁμαρτωλός εἰμι, Κύριε· θάμβος γὰρ περιέσχεν αὐτὸν καὶ πάντας τοὺς σὺν αὐτῷ ἐπὶ τῇ ἄγρα τῶν ἰχθύων ἧ συνέλαβον, ὁμοίως δὲ καὶ Ἰάκωβον καὶ Ἰωάννην, υἱοὺς Ζεβεδαίου, οἱ ἦσαν κοινωνοὶ τῷ Σίμωνι. καὶ εἶπε πρὸς τὸν Σίμωνα ὁ Ἰησοῦς· Μὴ φοβοῦ· ἀπὸ τοῦ νῦν ἀνθρώπους ἔσῃ ζωγρῶν. καὶ καταγαγόντες τὰ πλοῖα ἐπὶ τὴν γῆν, ἀφέντες ἅπαντα ἠκολούθησαν αὐτῷ.

At that time, Jesus was standing by the lake of Gennesaret. And he saw two boats by the lake; but the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. Getting into one of the boats, which was Simon's, he asked him to put out a little from the land. And he sat down and taught the people from the boat. And when he had ceased speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep and let down your nets for a catch." And Simon answered, "Master, we toiled all night and took nothing! But at your word I will let down the nets." And when they had done this, they enclosed a great shoal of fish; and as their nets were breaking, they beckoned to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord." For he was astonished, and all who were with him, at the catch of fish which they had taken; and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; henceforth you will be catching men." And when they had brought their boats to land, they left everything and followed him.

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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 September 24, 2023

Ushers on Duty: Cristina and Jim Lekas

Video: Natalia S.

Altar Servers: All Adult/Youth Servers

Epistle Readers: George Saratsiotis (Greek), Bryan Gordy (English)

Fellowship Host (Thank You!): Tassie Cantrell

PC Member On-Duty: Melanie Moye



Today our Holy Orthodox Church commemorates:

- + The Holy Great Martyr Thekla, Equal to the Apostles (+1st Century)

This saint was from the city of Iconium. When she was eighteen years of age, she was instructed in the Faith of Christ and the hope of the resurrection by the Apostle Paul, whom also she followed, forsaking her betrothed and espousing a life of virginity for the sake of the Heavenly Bridegroom. Having preached Christ in various cities and suffered many things, she reposed in Seleucia of Cilicia at the age of 90.

- + Our Devout Father Cooper (+530)

- + The Great Miracle of the Theotokos of the Myrtles on Kythira (+14th Century)

- + Our Devout Father Silouan of Athos (+1938)

He was a Russian peasant who traveled to Mt Athos and became a monk in the Russian Monastery of St Panteleimon. He lived so simply, humbly and quietly that he might be forgotten had not Fr Sophrony (Sakharov) become his spiritual child and, after the Saint's repose, written a book describing his life and teaching: St Silouan of Mt Athos, one of the great spiritual books of our time. It was through Fr Sophrony's efforts that St Silouan was glorified as a Saint. Following a vision of Christ Himself, St Silouan withdrew to a hermitage to devote himself entirely to prayer; but he was called back to serve as steward to the monastery. Though he now supervised some two hundred men, he only increased his prayers, withdrawing to his cell to pray with tears for each individual worker under his care. For more than fifteen years he struggled with demonic attacks during prayer until he was almost in despair. At this point Christ spoke to him in a vision, saying 'The proud always suffer from demons.' Silouan answered 'Lord, teach me what I must do that my soul may become humble.' To this he received the reply, 'Keep thy mind in hell, and despair not. Silouan made this his discipline in every moment of his life, and was granted the grace of pure prayer. He said that if he ever let his mind wander from the fire of hell, disruptive thoughts would once again plague him. In his humiliation he was filled with a pervasive love for all - he said many times that the final criterion of true Christian faith is unfeigned love for enemies, and that 'to pray for others is to shed blood.'

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):

- *Weekly Resurrectional Hymn (Κατέλυσας τῷ Σταυρῷ, Grave Mode):*

You destroyed death by Your Cross, You opened Paradise to the Robber. You turned the Myrrh-bearing Women's lament into joy, and You commanded Your Apostles to preach that You rose, O Christ God, granting the world the great mercy. (Sung before and after the Small Entrance)

- *Hymn of the Theotokos of the Myrtles (Λαοὶ νῦν κροτήσωμεν, Fourth Mode):*

O come, all you people, and let us in faith clap our hands * and sing sacred songs to her who is the Mother of God, * and longingly cry aloud: * "Rejoice, O protection of all those who entreat you; * rejoice, the salvation of those who honor you with longing; * rejoice, O Lady who restored * the paralyzed man to health."

- *Hymn of St. Thekla (Θείου κήρυκος, Third Mode):*

All aflame with love for your Creator, * from the teachings of the sacred preacher, * you disregarded as fleeting all things mundane. * And being bold in the face of the penalties, * you gave yourself as a beautiful gift to God. * Thecla, glorious companion of the Apostle Paul, * we pray you entreat your Bridegroom, Christ, * and ask Him to grant us His great mercy.

- *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 (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 (9/24—No Fasting): Luke 24:12-35; II Timothy 3:10-15; Luke 5:1-11

Monday (9/25—No Fasting): Ephesians 1:22-23, 2:1-3; Luke 4:38-44

Tuesday (9/26—St. John the Theologian—No Fasting): John 21:14-25; I John 4:12-19; John 19:25-27, 21:24-25

Wednesday (9/27—Strict Fast): Ephesians 3:8-21; Luke 5:33-39

Thursday (9/28—No Fasting): II Corinthians 4:6-15; Luke 6:17-23

Friday (9/29—Strict Fast): Galatians 5:22-26, 6:1-2; Luke 6:17-23

Saturday (9/30—No Fasting): I Corinthians 16:13-24; Matthew 24:42-47

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, Mena, Austin, Kiley, Garrett, Andy, Heather, Carolina, Maria, Laurie, Lindsey, Randy, Raymond, Marina, Effie, Christina, Ashley, Foster, Peggy, Lynn, Dimitri, Stelianos, Denna, Brian, Sue, Vassilios, Bessie

Prayers for those recently reposed:

James (+August 14), Dorothy (+August 20), Mounir (+August 23), Sedky (+August 25), Kim (+September 5), Jamal (+September 6), Dennis (+September 10), Steven (+September 18)

Prayers for expecting mothers:

Maggie B., Hannah K.

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

Weekly Wisdom of the Fathers:

St. Silouan the Athonite, who is commemorated today, speaks to us about the wisdom and truth emitting from St. John the Theologian (writer of the fourth gospel and who is commemorated this week on September 26): "The Holy Apostle John the Theologian says that the commandments of God are not difficult, but easy (I John 5:3). But they are only easy because of love, while they are all difficult if there is no love."

Upcoming Celebrations This Week

Name Days—Chronia Polla, Many Years!
None in the Records

Birthdays—Happy Birthday!

September 27: Bryan Gordy

September 28: Luke Zoumberis

September 29: Fr. Theodore Ehmer

Anniversaries—Congratulations!

September 25: Bryan and Juliana Gordy

(If you have a celebration that did not make it into the bulletin, please e-mail Fr. Theodore!)

Announcements:

* **Greek School** will be starting today for the youth! (adult class will begin next Sunday, October 1). The Youth and Adult class will alternate weeks with one another. The classes will last from 12:45pm to 1:30pm. On days that there is a Youth Greek School class, there will be Bible Study (thus, if you are a parent of a Greek School student, you're invited to attend Bible Study!)

* The **Not So Young Adult** Group is planning a hike at Amerson Park TODAY at 3:00pm for some fellowship. Please see Beth Zoumberis for more information!

* The **Adult Study Class** for the next few months on Wednesday evening will be "Orthodoxy 101." This will cover the basics of our Orthodox Christian faith. This is open to both newcomers and those in the Church. Classes will last from 6:30pm to 7:30pm and be on Wednesdays (with the exception of the first Wednesday of each month.)

* **Young Adult Ministry:** Saturday, September 30 at 6:30pm in Perry (details by email). Please RSVP with Christina Danforth.

* **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 at 8:30am) 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 know of someone who would like to volunteer to work at the festival, please direct them to our festival webpage or contact Cheryl Schwartzkopf.

* There is a **Parish Council meeting** this Tuesday, September 26 at 6:45pm. If you are a chairman of a ministry and have a report for our next council meeting, please contact your PC Liaison.

* **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.