HOLY CROSS
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
859 First Street | Macon, Georgia 31201 | 478.621.0744 (office)
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Sunday, September 3, 2023
13th Sunday of Matthew
The Holy Hieromartyr St. Anthimos
Eothinon/Orthros Gospel: Second (Mark 16:1-8)
Mode of the Week: Fourth/Tέταρτος

Orthros
Divine Liturgy

Upcoming Schedule
Today, September 3
9:15am Orthros
10:30am Divine Liturgy on the 13th Sunday of Matthew
Coffee Fellowship and Bible Study in the Parish House after Liturgy

Monday, September 4
Labor Day—Office Closed

Tuesday, September 5
7:00pm Young Adult Ministry Outing (Trivia in Macon)

Wednesday, September 6
5:43pm Vespers
6:30pm Choir Practice (in the Church)

Thursday, September 7
5:30pm Great Vespers for the Nativity of the Theotokos

Friday, September 8
9:30am Orthros
10:30am Divine Liturgy for the Nativity of the Theotokos

Saturday, September 9
10a-6p 2nd Annual Pan-Orthodox Cross Dive at Lake Tobesoofkee
(Dive at 3:00pm, Food at 4:00pm)

Sunday, September 10
9:15am Orthros
10:30am Divine Liturgy on the Sunday before the Holy Cross
Coffee Fellowship in the Parish House after the Liturgy

Monday, September 11
Labor Day—Office Closed

Tuesday, September 12
7:00pm Great Vespers for the Elevation of the Holy Cross

Wednesday, September 13
5:45pm Vespers
6:30pm Choir Practice (in the Church)

Thursday, September 14
5:30pm Great Vespers for the Elevation of the Holy Cross (our parish’s name day!)
Procession of the Holy Cross at the end of the Liturgy

Saturday, September 16
4:00pm Byzantine Chant Class
5:00pm Great Vespers

Sunday, September 17
9:15am Orthros
10:30am Divine Liturgy on the Sunday after the Holy Cross
Blessing for the beginning of Sunday School
Coffee Fellowship and Bible Study in the Parish House after Liturgy
12:30pm Philoptochos Meeting in the Parish House

Tuesday, September 19
7:30pm Stewardship Committee Meeting

Upcoming Epistle Readers: (9/10) Kostas Iakovidis, Beth Zoumberis; (9/17) Alex Hortman, Isabelle Saratsiotis

Upcoming PC Member On-Duty: (9/10) Sarah Draskopoulos; (9/17) Natalia Saratsiotis; (9/24) Melanie Moye

Upcoming Ushers: (9/6) OPEN; (9/7) Tassie C.; (9/8) Eleni+Norm A.; (9/10) Cleo B., Sarah D.; (9/13) Tassie C.

Upcoming Video Operators: (9/10) Gray Y./David N.; (9/13) Cristina L.; (9/14) Joanna F.; (9/17) David Z.

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.

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!
O Lord, Your works shall be magnified greatly; You made all things in wisdom.

Verse: Bless the Lord, O my soul. O Lord my God, You are magnified exceedingly. (Psalm 103)

Brethren, be watchful, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love. Now, brethren, you know that the household of Stephanas were the first in Achaia to believe in the Lord, and they have devoted themselves to the service of the saints; I urge you to be subject to such men and to every fellow worker and laborer. I rejoice at the coming of Stephanas and Fortunatus and Aquila, who have refreshed us in our spirits. Give recognition to such men and to every fellow worker. The churches of Asia send greetings. Aquila and Priscia, together with the church in their house, send you hearty greetings in the Lord. All the brethren send greetings. Greet one another with a holy kiss. I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand. If any one has no love for the Lord, let him be accursed. Our Lord, come! The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you. My love be with you all in Christ Jesus. Amen.

Epistle Reading

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The Holy Gospel Reading according to St. Matthew (21:33-42)

13th Sunday of Matthew

The Lord said this parable, "There was a householder who planted a vineyard, and set a hedge around it, and dug a wine press in it, and built a tower, and let it out to tenants, and went into another country. When the season of fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the tenants, to get his fruit; and the tenants took him and cast him out of the vineyard and killed him. When therefore the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and let out the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the fruits in their seasons." Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the scriptures: 'The very stone which the builders rejected has become the head of the corner; this was the Lord's doing, and it was marvelous in our eyes?"
Today our Holy Orthodox Church commemorates:

- The Holy Hieromartyr Anthimos, Bishop of Nicomedia (+393)
- Our Devout Father Theoklistos, fellow ascetic of Ethyimos the Great (+435)

Saint Theoklistos, a monk at the Palestinian laura of Pharaun, embraced the life in the wilderness with his friend Saint Ethyimos the Great. They founded a monastery, of which Theoklistos was the abbot. He reposed in deep old age in 451.

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

- Weekly Resurrectional Hymn (To quelipov, Fourth Mode): When the women disciples of the Lord heard the angel joyfully proclaim the resurrection, they cast aside the ancestral verdict, and boasting in glory they said to the Apostles, "Death has been despoled! Christ God has risen, granting the great mercy to the world!" (Song before and after the Small Entrance)
- Hymn of St. Anthimos (Kai trpoume xwrgox, 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 enclosure to contemplation. Hence you rightly expounded the word of truth, and you shed your blood in struggling for the faith, O Hieromartyr Anthimos. Intercede with Christ our God, beseeching Him to save our souls.
- Hymn of St. Theoklistos (Tasov taw dekavok, Plagal Fourth Mode): With the rivers of your tears you made the barren desert bloom; and with your sighs from deep within, you made your labors bear a fruits a hundredfold; and you became a star, illuminating the world by your miracles, O Theoklistos our devout father. Intercede with Christ our God, for the salvation of our souls.
- The Kontakion of the Nativity of the Theotokos (Ioasaxi kai Avva, Fourth Mode):
  - Both Joachim and Anna from their sterility's stigma, and Adam and Eve from their mortality's ruin have been set free, O imperious Maid, by your holy nativity. For this do your people hold celebration, redeemed from the guilt of transgression as they cry to you, "The barren one bears the Theotokos, the nourisher of our Life."

Prayer Requests:

My. Fr. Symeon (mission priest supported by our parish), Pantelimon, Michael, Evthalia, Kassiani, Michael, Dimitrios, Georgia, Pavlos, Jim, Betty, David, Chris, Irene, Valerie, Dianna, Keith, Jeannie, Dawn, Kenneth, Samuel, Hermione, Emmanuel, Mary, Kay, Helen, Nikia, Menia, Austin, Kelley, Garrett, Andy, Heather, Carolina, Mary, Laurie, Lindsey, Randy, Raymond, Marina, Effie, Christina, Ashley, Foster, Peggy, Lynn, Dimitri, Stelian, Dema

Prayers for those recently repose:

- Marty (+August 4), Rose (+August 6), James (+August 14), Mounir (+August 21), sedky (+August 25)

Prayers for expectant mothers:

Maggie B.

Prayers for Military Personnel and Their Families:

- Auburiana Butchko, Kyle Glotzbach, Robert Icz, Ron, Aaron Vrabic, Aleksandar Zacek

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. Anthimos of Chios (+1600), speaks to us a simple reminder for when we go to wash our own hands and faces: "What do people do when their hands and faces are dirty? They turn on a tap and allow the water to clean away the stains. We should imitate them. Only, we should open two taps — our Sunday Water and our anointing of tears of repentance. And when the sun pours out, which will wash out all the poisons of this futile world which have infected and dirtied our wretched souls."