

Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church

W I N T E R 2 0 2 3 - 2 0 2 4 Q U A R T E R L Y B U L L E T I N



Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church

859 First Street
Macon, Georgia 31201

Telephone: 478.621.0744

Website: www.holycrossga.org

Email: office@holycrossga.org

Facebook: HolyCrossMaconGA

Instagram: HolyCrossMacon

SUNDAY SERVICES

(For services during the week, please visit our webpage)

Orthros	9:15am
Divine Liturgy	10:30am
Coffee Fellowship	12:00pm/ following Liturgy

PARISH CLERGY

Rev. Fr. Theodore Ehmer
frtheodore@holycrossga.org

PARISH COUNCIL

Natalia Saratsiotis, President
Gray Yates, Vice-President
Charles Glotzbach, Secretary
Sarah Drakopoulos, Assistant Secretary
Maria McCluskey, Treasurer
John Apostolou, Assistant Treasurer
Melanie Moye, Member-at-Large

Father Theodore's Message

O Bethlehem, prepare, Eden is opened unto all. And be ready, Ephrata, for the Tree of life has in the grotto blossomed forth from the Virgin. Indeed her womb is shown to be spiritually a Paradise, in which is found the God-planted Tree. And if we eat from it we shall live, and shall not die, as did Adam of old. Christ is born, so that He might raise up the formerly fallen image. - Hymn of the Forefeast of the Nativity of Christ

My beloved brothers and sisters in Christ,

The days are passing quickly and we are already in the midst of the Nativity Fast! Of course, fasting is something that we might not prefer to think about as we may be going to Christmas gatherings with our family, friends, or co-workers, but it is a very important part of our Orthodox Christian inheritance and tradition to prepare for Christmas. Quoting catechetical instruction from our Holy Church, "in its most basic sense, fasting is abstinence from food. But it is far more than that. It helps us to open our minds and souls to the guidance of the Spirit and to break away from our captivity to bodily appetites and selfish desires. Through fasting we overcome the burdens and pressures of physical gratification that are placed upon us in our world, and through our faith in Christ we are renewed and transformed into the holy people God created us to be."

These are beautiful and important words of instruction from our Holy Church. However, fasting is not something that occurs in isolation, but within the day to day context of our lives in Christ. One of the most important aspects of that are the Divine Services (ακολουθίες) of our Holy Orthodox Church which have stood against the test of time while the world around the Church has drastically changed. There is a reason for their inflexibility: if we enter more fully into the liturgical life of our Church, that which has been handed down to us, we have the opportunity to be renewed and transformed.

In the mad rush before Christmas time, we might ponder "the reason for the season" and how we want to "be present" and to truly celebrate this season commemorating the entry of our Lord into His creation through His Incarnation, His taking on of our flesh for us and for our salvation. Doing something "more" might seem counterintuitive, but in the case of what I will suggest, "more" might mean being wiser with our time or making decisions which are more fruitful.

The hymn that I quoted above is repeated on multiple days before Christmas arrives. The little town of Bethlehem prepared itself to welcome our Lord in its midst, offering up a humble grotto and cave. We can prepare ourselves and offer the grotto of our bodies and souls in worship to welcome the incarnate Lord.

Instead of say, staying home and watching a holiday Hallmark movie (no offense to the Hallmark movies!) we could attend an evening service and be enriched by lighting a candle, worship in the midst of our brothers and sisters in Christ, hearing the timeless words of the hymnography, doing something beneficial to our bodies and souls, preparing ourselves for the welcoming of Jesus into the world. In the days before Christmas (which is on Monday, the 25th), there will be services in the evening of Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, and Christmas Eve. Come to the Church and then go enjoy the Christmas Lights in downtown Macon afterwards! Take advantage of what the Holy Church has to offer us and truly experience the "meaning of the season," the Incarnation of our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ who has and is coming to raise up the formerly fallen image!

As an additional note, in this time of giving thanks par excellence, I am incredibly grateful to everyone who makes efforts with their time, talents, and treasures to strengthen our Holy Cross Church. God bless you all and thank you!

With love in Christ's Service,



Fr. Theodore



- HOLY SACRAMENTS & SERVICES -

2023 Archangel Michael Award

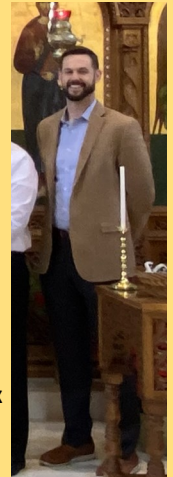


Congratulations to Amanda Lord and Daniel Smith who were united the Holy Sacrament of Matrimony on October 29th, 2023. May God bless you both with a lifetime of faith and love!



Congratulations to Chad Ridley who was Chrismated into the Orthodox Faith on October 22!

Congratulations to our parish's Archangel Michael Honorees, Jim Lekas and Gray Yates! May God always bless their efforts and service to His Holy Orthodox Church!



Congratulations and May God Grant you Many Years!



Top Row from L to R: Fr. Theodore in Atlanta on the weekend of the Archangel Michael Awards; Fr. Theodore in fellowship with His Eminence Alexios after the 2nd Annual Cross Dive
Bottom Row From L to R: Presv. Stacey attended the Biennial Retreat for the National Sisterhood of Presvyteres in Richmond, VA.; Fr. Theodore with our new catechumen James Scarborough; Holy Cross Nameday and Feast day services with Father Paul; Fr. and Presv. Stacey attending the comedy fundraising event in Atlanta with Spyros and Emily Dermatas hosted by the Atlanta Philoptochos.

A Note from the Parish Council President

Natalia Saratsiotis, president | natalia.saratsiotis@gmail.com

Fr. Theodore and Fellow Parishioners,

Looking back over the last three months, there have been many celebrations that I have been honored to be a part of. The 2nd Annual Pan-Orthodox Cross Dive started us off with a beautiful weekend. Many of us worked hard to ensure everything was perfect not only for our out-of-town guests, but also for our community. We extended the weekend to an outing at the movies where several of us sat back, laughed and enjoyed watching a movie at the theater. It is important to remember to have fellowship with your neighbor. We all work so hard, and we tend to forget to relax and spend time with one another. Laughter is the best medicine and it has its benefits! I recently read somewhere online where, mentally, laughter releases endorphins which are linked to positive moods; it reduces stress, anxiety, and depression; and it improves life satisfaction. Physically, laughter increases natural killer cells; provides similar cardiovascular benefits to exercise; improves learning and critical thinking; and increases pain tolerance. So take time Thanksgiving, Christmas and the New Year to spend time with your loved ones and laugh your way through the winter!

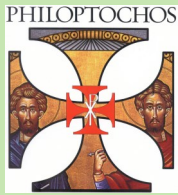
This year, the Greek Festival took on a special meaning for me. We started the weekend off with a prayer from Father Theodore. As I was running around here and there during the festival, I saw those of us that were there working together. I did not hear any "fasaria" (negative comments) from anyone. Everything ran smoothly and if there were hiccups, people stepped up and did what was necessary. We ended the festival the same way we started it...with a prayer. I thank Father Theodore for the words he spoke before the prayer. It is important to thank Him for all the Glory! Those of you who know me, know that I truly love the festival. As we all sat around before we had dinner Sunday night, I got emotional. I cannot thank everyone who stepped up and did their part over the weekend. A special thank you Harry Bennette, Mike Cantrell, Jim Lekas and David Zoumberis. We all shine in different areas and together, and I think we make a pretty good team!

For many years, I have heard about people wanting to learn Greek. I am pleased that Maria Bronisevsky, Joanna Patronis and Sarah Drakopoulos have taken the initiative to start not only a youth class, but an adult class as well. I love hearing those that do not know Greek greeting me and others in Greek. In addition to Greek School, Antigone Micahlakis is teaching the little ones how to Greek dance—they had their first performance during the festival where His Eminence ALEXIOS surprised us all with a visit! Carrying on the Greek culture has always held a special place in my heart, and I am thrilled that these traditions are being kept alive. Thank you all for your ministry!

Since COVID, we have held many Blood Drives at the Parish House. Thank you to everyone who has participated in donating blood. Our next drive is January 3rd. If you are available to help out on this day, please let me know. I am looking for someone who can be at the Parish House at 2:00pm to let the American Red Cross in (I can arrange for you to have a key if you do not on that day). You will only need to stay for a couple of hours until I get there.

Lastly, I want to say how wonderful it is that we have had so many new people come into the church. I have always said that Holy Cross is a special place where we make people feel welcome. Thank you for being a part of that!

In Christ's love,
Natalia Saratsiotis



Our Mission:

To promote charitable, benevolent and philanthropic outreach; to preserve the sanctity of life and family; and to perpetuate and promote our Orthodox faith and traditions.

Fr. Theodore and Fellow Parishioners,

As we begin to look forward to the end of the year, I am thankful for the many blessings in my life and for my church family. For many years, I was unable to serve in leadership roles at our church. I was working multiple jobs and raising three young sons. As I got through it, I learned about hard work, perseverance and what it really means to make ends meet. Today as I look at those three boys, I see a bright light from the darkest times in my life.

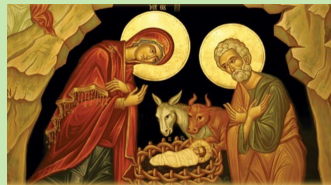
The church is always an extended family no matter which small town or big city we live in... the church opens her arms to us. When I was a newcomer to Macon, Holy Cross welcomed me with open arms, through the good times and the bad. Now I am proud to be able to serve this church as the Philoptochos President and a Parish Council member.

As we look forward to the future growth of our church, we need to stop and think about the true blessings that we have in our midst. We have an amazing Priest with his family, we have unbreakable friendships, and we have the love and determination to make things happen!

As we move into the new year, let's try to remember the little things that make a difference in our lives. We can work together as a community, love one another, share our talents and treasures and be kind. Philoptochos is a wonderful organization that serves the poor, and we should focus our efforts to help those in need.

Our main fundraiser, the Christmas Pastry Trays is underway, and we are planning to write a new cookbook with recipes, stories, and photographs from our parishioners. Please join us and let's work together to do good. Thank you for all of your love and support!

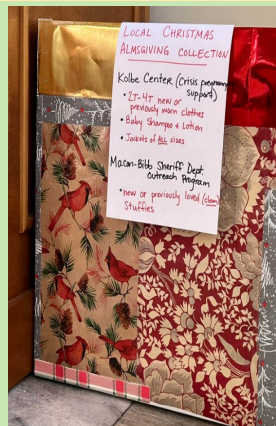
**In Christ's Service,
Sarah Drakopoulos**



THANK YOU!
VENMO: @HOLYCROSS-PHILOPTOCHOS
EMAIL: PHILOPTOCHOS@HOLYCROSSGA.ORG



As you are tidying, shopping, cleaning out, preparing for the Nativity of our Lord... please keep in mind our local almsgiving opportunities and bring your offerings to church!



Youth

Presvytera Stacey Ehmer
Youth Ministry Director
pres.stacey@holycrossga.org



Hello there, Holy Cross Family!

While I have enjoyed serving as the “temporary” Youth Director since TJ Ragan moved to Athens in May of 2020, it is time for me to focus my ministry efforts and energies in other areas. The end of this year will be the conclusion of my “Youth Directorship.” I trust that our beloved Holy Cross Youth will be in fantastic care with Erick and Cheryl Schwartzkopf leading this ministry under the pastoral leadership of Fr. Theodore. I do plan to remain the Sunday School Director and continue to serve the youth in other ways.

Have you started to slowly introduce the concept of fasting in your home with your children? If you would like to dip your toes in but don't know where to start, here are a few of our family's favorites for each meal!

Breakfast: Peanut butter toast, Avocado toast, Bananas in Cream of Wheat, Skillet Potatoes with sautéed onions/peppers/spinach/hot sauce, Cinnamon and dates oatmeal, boxed pancake mix pancakes.

Lunch: Hummus rollup, Peanut butter/banana/honey sandwich, Sweet potatoes with marshmallows, Fruit and veggie smoothies, Smoked oysters and crackers, Boxed soups (like Butternut squash for example) with toast strips, Falafel and tahini wraps.

Dinner: Build your own taco salad (greens, beans, corn, avocado, tomato, onion, cilantro, lime, crushed tortilla chips, etc.). Shrimp tacos with cabbage slaw (Kroger often has frozen wild caught “popcorn shrimp” on sale in the seafood department). Veggie burgers (Aldi has some great ones!) with the fixings and fries or tots, Veggie Chili with cornbread, Pasta and blended veggie tomato sauce, Bean/rice in red or green sauce enchiladas, Baked tofu and sautéed veggies over rice, Coconut veggie curry, “Meat” balls and sauce over noodles with a salad.

On the topic of fasting, St. John Chrysostom reminds us of this hugely important piece of our fasting efforts which we should gently introduce to our children as well (language paraphrased and heavily adjusted for littles): When we fast from some foods to prepare our bodies for Christ's Birth (the big word for that is “Incarnation”...when God became a tiny baby for our Salvation!), we also practice fasting in lots of other ways-with our whole bodies! Our hands fast by not being greedy with our toys or things, our feet fast by “running away from” hurtful choices and doing wrong to others, our eyes fast by not watching rude or scary things, our ears fast by not listening to unkind talk and gossip, and our mouths fast by not saying ugly things or criticizing others. As St. John puts it, “what good is it if we abstain from birds and fishes, but bite and devour our brothers?”

Love in Christ,
Presv. Stacey



UPCOMING THINGS TO NOTE:

- Dec. 3: St. Nicholas Day
- Dec. 16: Pet Blessing in the Courtyard- bring your creatures!
- Dec. 17: Nativity Pageant after Divine Liturgy
- Dec. 21: Annual Christmas Caroling along with the Choir
- Dec. 27-30: Winter Youth Rally in Atlanta



The Blessing of the Sunday School!



Our youth volunteering at the Daybreak Homeless Shelter in Macon.



Sunday School with Ms. Helen!



A beautiful wedding shower in honor of Amanda Lord was hosted by, Christina Danforth, Presvytera Stacey and Lisa Needham!

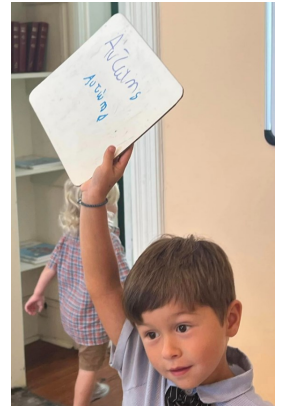


The blessing and recognition of our church musicians and their important ministry on the Feast of St. Romanos (beloved hymnographer of our Holy Orthodox Church).



Greek School is off to a great start!

Ελληνικό Σχολείο



Metropolis of Atlanta Youth at our 2nd Annual Holy Cross Cross Dive!



The blessing of our Veterans and the unveiling of our new Veterans plaque.



More Cross Dive Moments...



The 3rd Annual Thanksgiving Potluck.





20's/30's

Interested in organizing an outing, contact Christina Danforth



October 2 and September 5th Outings with the Young Adult Ministry



40's/50's

Interested in organizing an outing, contact David or Beth Zoumberis



Our NYSAG group met up for a relaxing night at Margaritas!

SPRING FLING
GYROS | GREEK FRIES | LOUKANIKO | LOUKOUMADES
MARCH 9, 2024 11AM - 7PM

Nativity Pageant



SUNDAY, DEC. 17

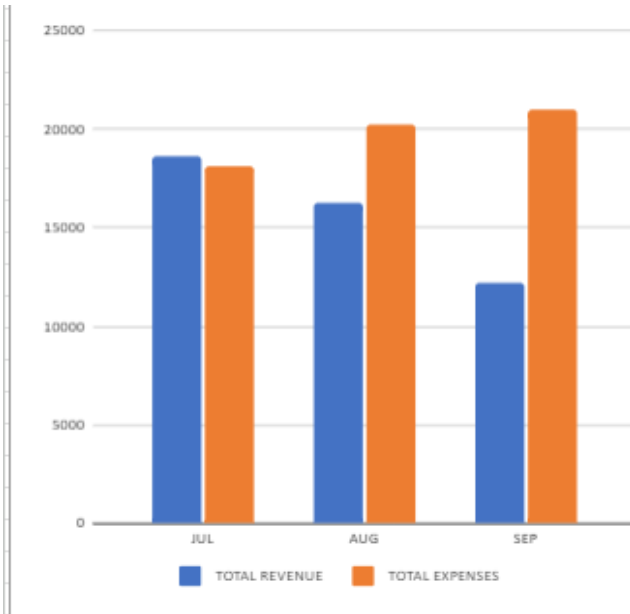


SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4:

GODPARENT SUNDAY!

Sit together, partake of Holy Communion together, and join us at coffee hour for cake & a special photo "moment"!

QUARTER 3 FINANCIAL REPORT



	JUL	AUG	SEP
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 18,653.95	\$ 16,224.83	\$ 12,174.36
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 18,136.64	\$ 20,203.35	\$ 20,973.17
NET/DEFICIT	\$ 517.31	\$ (3,978.52)	\$ (8,798.81)

**Please note these values do not include reserves from Festival Account

Thank you for all your contributions and continued support toward the growth and future of our Parish!

Please visit our web page at:
www.holycrossga.org

The Offering link will give you all the options available for any financial giving.

Venmo & PayPal @HolyCrossMacon

CashApp \$HolyCrossMacon



American Red Cross BLOOD DRIVE

JANUARY 3, 2024
3PM—7PM | PARISH HOUSE

Give Blood • Give Life



**SCAN THE
QR CODE TO
SCHEDULE YOUR
APPOINTMENT
TODAY!**

**PLEASE CONSIDER
SIGNING UP AND
DONATING BLOOD!**

PLANNING COMMITTEE

CLEO BENNETTE, EMILY DERMATAS, ROZA HARRIS, CRISTINA LEKAS,
KATHYE PATRAS, CHERYL STEFANIS & KIKI VASILOPOULOS

After receiving His Eminence Alexios' blessing and having our plans approved by the Metropolis of Atlanta, Project Agape: Phase IV Iconography was accepted at the General Assembly on November 12th. Iconographer Ari Kovaci came and gave an informative presentation outlining the three-year project. The kickoff campaign will begin early 2024.

Praise be to God!

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

3RD QUARTER

TASSIE CANTRELL, SPYROS DERMATAS, CHARLES GLOTZBACH &
BETH ZOUMBERIS

For the Quarter ending September 30th, 2023, Holy Cross Parish is blessed with 128 Families.

Of these, we had the following actively contributing:

Committed Stewards in 2023: **45**

Additional Contributing Stewards: **31**

We want to Thank those who are committed to seeing Holy Cross continue to meet its financial obligations and continue the mission of doing God's work and helping those in need.

In November, we distributed the Stewardship Commitment Trifold for 2024. If you have already turned yours in, Thank You for your dedication, love and support of Holy Cross. If you have not, please thoughtfully and prayerfully consider what you are able to do and turn your Stewardship Commitment Trifold in by Sunday, December 10, 2023.

This is the feast day Sunday of St. Nicholas and the day Fr. Theodore will do a special blessing of all the Stewardship Commitments. Every steward will be blessed and Holy Cross will be able to grow and provide more to our parishioners and the many missions we help each year. If you have any questions re: your stewardship commitment, please feel free to ask anyone on the Stewardship Committee or talk with Fr. Theodore. Stewardship is a significant way of putting your Faith into Action and part of your spiritual journey. God Bless You! Anything you can do in love and with a cheerful heart is welcome.

Online giving is available.

BUILDING COMMITTEE

JIM LEKAS, ALEX SARATSIOTIS & DAVID ZOUMBERIS

Nothing new to report! Our Church looks as beautiful as ever! Glory to God!

16TH ANNUAL CENTRAL GEORGIA GREEK FESTIVAL

A huge thank you to everyone who helped out in any way for the Greek Festival. The community came, enjoyed the authentic flavors of Greece while sitting back and listening to the sweet sounds of Greece and watching Areti, the amazing dancers from the Atlanta Cathedral. Wonderful words were spoken about the tours that were given inside the church. We have only heard positive things, and we are excited! We cannot thank you all from the bottom of our hearts! There will be a booth chairman wrap-up meeting on December 7th at 6:30. Please make every effort to attend if you are a chair. Also, for those who are not chairmen, please submit any suggestions you may have for next year. We will review and discuss them to see if we are able to incorporate them for 2024. Once we have decided on the dates, we will let you know so you can put it on your calendar. The Spring Fling is Saturday, April 9th. Be sure to mark your calendars!



**CHEERS TO A SUCCESSFUL FESTIVAL IN 2023...OPA!
HARRY BENNETTE, MIKE CANTRELL, JIM LEKAS,
NATALIA SARATSIOITIS & DAVID ZOUMBERIS**



16TH ANNUAL CENTRAL GEORGIA GREEK FESTIVAL (AS OF NOVEMBER 10, 2023)

FESTIVAL / GROSS SALES WITH PRE, DURING, & POST SALES	\$ 153,997.26
FESTIVAL EXPENSES	\$ 70,136.73
FESTIVAL NET	\$ 83,860.53
PERCENT PROFIT	54.456%



PC ON DUTY, EPISTLE READERS & FELLOWSHIP HOUR SCHEDULE

DATE	PC MEMBER ON DUTY	GREEK READER	ENGLISH READER	FELLOWSHIP HOST
December 3	John Apostolou	Kostas Iakovidis	René Esquivel	Rodica Cazacu
December 10	Charles Glotzbach	Aleca Hortman	Beth Zoumberis	Maria McCluskey
December 17	Sarah Drakopoulos	George Saratsiotis	Isabelle Saratsiotis	Helen Vardy
December 24	Melanie Moye	Pete Tsamolias	Bryan Gordy	Cheryl Schwartzkopf
December 31	Natalia Saratsiotis	Kostas Iakovidis	Nadia Cazacu	Antigone Michalakis
January 7	Gray Yates	Aleca Hortman	Mike Cantrell	PHILOPTOCHOS
January 14	Maria McCluskey	George Saratsiotis	Richard Stewart	Natalia Saratsiotis
January 21	<i>(Asst. Treasurer)</i>	Pete Tsamolias	Cheryl Schwartzkopf	Cristina Lekas
January 28	<i>(Secretary)</i>	Kostas Iakovidis	Charles Glotzbach	Danai Esquivel
February 4	<i>(Asst. Secretary)</i>	Aleca Hortman	Diana Cazacu	PARISH COUCNIL
February 11	<i>(Member-at-Large)</i>	George Saratsiotis	Panos Drakopoulos	Cleo Bennette
February 18	<i>(President)</i>	Pete Tsamolias	Cleo Bennette	Despina Passias
February 25	<i>{Vice-President}</i>	Kostas Iakovodis	Sarah Drakopoulos	Eleni Adams

BIRTHDAYS, NAME DAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

If you would like your birthday, Name Day, and/or anniversary listed in our weekly bulletins or if there is a correction that needs to be made, please email the office and we will add it to our master list. Please email office@holycrossga.org for any corrections.

December

12.03 *Anna Kallergis (B)
 12.04 *Erick Schwartzkopf (N)
 *Paul & Alyssa Syribeys (A)
 12.05 *Cleo Bennette (B)
 *Stacey Goss (B)
 12.06 *George Stefanis (B)
 *Gray Yates (B)
 *Nick Dermatas (N)
 *Aaron Nicholas Vrahotes (N)
 *Nicholas Poulos (N)
 *Nikki Hammond (N)
 *Steven Paul Syribeys (B)
 12.07 *Ray Vardy (B)
 12.08 *Violet Christina Danforth (B)
 *Lilly Anne Syribeys (B)
 12.09 *Tom Zdrakas (B)
 *Nicholas James Peterson (B)
 *Diane Berkner (N)
 *Cheryl Stefanis (N)
 *Anna Kallergis (N)
 *Henry Gordy (B)
 12.10 *Spyros Dermatas (B)
 12.11 *Denna Bradford (B)
 *Adam Kangas (N)
 *Brad & Jordan Perry (A)
 12.12 *Fr. Michael Vastakis (B)
 *Spyros Dermatas (N)
 *Dragos Filimon (N)
 12.13 *Kostas Iakovidis (B)
 12.14 *Erick Schwartzkopf (B)
 12.16 *Danai Esquivel (N)
 12.17 *Kathye Patras (B)
 *Connor Aaron Morris (N)
 *Holly Economopoulos (N)
 *David Needham (N)
 12.18 *Guy Holland (B)
 *Lilly Anne Syribeys (B)
 12.19 *Christine Cassimus (B)
 12.21 *Tony Economopoulos (B)
 12.22 *Presvytera Stacey Ehmer (N)
 12.23 *Logan Wells (B)
 12.24 *Eugenia Zoe Jones (N)
 *Rebekah Bradford (N)
 12.25 *Cristina Lekas (N)
 *Chrissy Holland (N)

January

*Chrissy Zdrakas (N)
 *Christine Nicholas (N) 1.19
 *Christian Morris (N) 1.20
 *Christina Danforth (N)
 *Violet Christina Danforth (N) 1.21
 *Gloria Anastasia Dixon (N) 1.22
 12.26 *John Cacavias (B) 1.23
 12.27 *Kostas & Katerina Iakovidis (A)
 *Nikki Hammond (B) 1.24
 *Washington Morris (B) 1.25
 12.30 *Hannah & Demetri Kostakis (A)
 12.31 *Susan McCluskey (B) 1.27
 *Melanie Moye (N) 1.31
 *Frank & Nikki Hammond (A)
 *David Lee Bradford (N)

1.01 *Bessie Andros (N)
 *Carter Zoumberis (N)
 *Betty Maxwell (N)
 *Basil Ehmer (N)
 1.02 *Frank Hammond (B)
 *Demetri Kostakis (B)
 1.03 *Cristina Lekas (B)
 *Fr. Theodore & Presvytera Stacey (A)
 1.04 *Lukas Esquivel (B)
 *Alex Saratsiotis (B)
 *Robert Ice (B)
 1.07 *John Cacavias (N)
 *Sean Morris (N)
 *John Santon (N)
 *John Apostolou (N)
 *John Staurulakis (N)
 *Bryan "John" Gordy (N)
 1.08 *Holly Economopoulos (B)
 1.15 *Kalie Crouse (B)
 1.16 *Irene Ray (B)
 *Caroline Saratsiotis (B)
 1.17 *Tony Bennette (N)
 *Tony Zoumberis, Sr. (N)
 *Tony Zoumberis, Jr. (N)
 *Anthony Paul Zoumberis (N)
 *Tony Economopoulos (N)
 *René Esquivel (N)
 *René Anthonis Esquivel, Jr (N)

February

*Tony Kallergis (N)
 *Wyatt Morris (B)
 *Effie Morris (N)
 *Charles Glotzbach (N)
 *Gray Maximos Yates (N)
 *Cheryl Schwartzkopf (B)
 *Christina Danforth (B)
 *Cheryl Schwartzkopf (N)
 *Cyndi Xenia Douglas (N)
 *Greg Spicer (N)
 *Greg Cassimus (N)
 *Tony Zoumberis Jr. (B)
 *Ben George Davis (B)

2.03 *Sean Morris (B)
 2.04 *Harry Zaloumes (B)
 *Louis & Maggie Bennette (A)
 2.05 *Richard Stewart (B)
 2.06 *Louis Bennette (B)
 2.08 *Dimitris Saratsiotis (B)
 *Brad Perry (B)
 2.10 *Harry Bennette (N)
 *Harry Zaloumes (N)
 2.11 *Ron Sprouse (B)
 *Sophia & Alek Zajac (A)
 2.12 *Cheryl & George Stefanis (A)
 2.13 *John Staurulakis (B)
 2.14 *Eleni and Norman Adams (A)
 *Justin Lane (B)
 2.17 *Father Theodore Ehmer (N)
 2.18 *Lincoln Wells (B)
 2.22 *Diana-Maria Cazacu (B)
 *John Apostolou (B)
 2.23 *Nicholas Poulos (B)
 *Pamela Gorgonia Poulos (N)
 2.26 *Carter Zoumberis (B)
 *Fotini Tammi Cantrell (N)
 2.27 *Georgia & George Saratsiotis (A)
 *Jessica Holland (B)
 2.29 *Kassiani Andros (N)
 *Marie-Louise Saratsiotis (B)

December 2023

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 4:00pm Byzantine Chant Class 5:00pm Great Vespers
3 14th Sunday of Luke 9:15am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy/ Sunday School 12:00pm Fellowship 12:45pm Youth Greek School/Adult Bible Study	4	5 5:30pm Great Vespers for the Feast of St. Nicholas 6:30pm Adult Study Class	6 St. Nicholas 9:30am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy 6:30pm Choir Practice	7 6:30pm Festival Wrap-up Meeting with Department Chairmen	8	9 4:00pm Byzantine Chant Class 5:00pm Great Vespers
10 10th Sunday of Luke 9:15am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy/ Sunday School/ Stewardship Blessings 12:00pm Fellowship 12:00pm PC Elections 12:45pm Adult Greek School/Youth Greek Dance	11	12 St. Spyridon 9:30am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy	13 5:45pm Vespers 6:30pm Adult Study Class	14	15	16 3:00pm Blessing of the Animals 4:00pm Byzantine Chant Class 5:00pm Great Vespers
17 11th Sunday of Luke 9:15am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy/ Sunday School 11:45am Christmas Pageant 12:00pm Fellowship 12:45pm Youth Greek School/ Adult Bible Study	18	19 5:00pm Vespers for the Forefeast of the Nativity of Christ 6:30pm Parish Council Meeting	20 5:00pm Vespers for the Forefeast of the Nativity of Christ 6:00pm Adult Study Class	21 3:00pm Christmas Caroling	22 St. Anastasia 5:00pm Royal Hours for the Nativity of Christ	23 4:00pm Byzantine Chant Class 5:00pm Great Vespers
24 Sunday before Nativity Christmas Eve 9:15am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy/ Sunday School 12:00pm Fellowship 12:45pm Adult Greek School/ Youth Greek Dance 5:00pm Great Vespers for Christmas (followed by Carols)	25 Christmas Day The Nativity of Our Lord OFFICE CLOSED 7:15am Orthros 8:30am Divine Liturgy of St. Basil	26	27 St. Stephen	28	29	30 4:00pm Byzantine Chant Class 5:00pm Great Vespers
31 Sunday after Nativity 9:15am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy 12:00pm Fellowship 12:45pm Youth Greek School 1:00pm Great Vespers for the Feast of St. Basil		Fasting Guide as prescribed by the Church:	<i>This color denotes a Strict Fast Day (basically, vegan/dry eating)</i>	<i>This color denotes an Oil +Wine permissible Fasting day, yet still vegan</i>	<i>This color denotes a Fish permissible Fasting Day, but without meat and dairy products</i>	<i>This color denotes a Cheese permissible Fasting Day, but without meat products</i>

~ WINTER YOUTH RALLY ~

January 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 New Year St. Basil the Great 9:15am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy of St. Basil	2	3	4	5 Forefeast of Theophany 9:30am Royal Hours of Theophany 5:00pm Vesperal Liturgy and Blessing of the Waters	6 Theophany (Epiphany) 9:30am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy and Great Blessing of the Waters 4:00pm Byzantine Chant Class 5:00pm Great Vespers
7 Sunday after Epiphany St. John the Baptist 9:15am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy/ Sunday School 12:00pm Fellowship / Cutting of the Vasilopita 12:45pm Adult Greek School/Youth Greek Dance	8	9	10 5:45pm Vespers 6:30pm Adult Study Class	11	12	13
14 Leavetaking of the Theophany of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ 9:15am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy/ Sunday School 12:00pm Fellowship 12:45pm Youth Greek School/Adult Bible Study	15 MLK Day OFFICE CLOSED	16	17 St. Anthony 5:00pm 9th Hour and Divine Liturgy 6:30pm Adult Study Class	18 St. Ananios & Cyril	19	20 4:00pm Byzantine Chant Class 5:00pm Great Vespers
21 12th Sunday of Luke 9:15am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy/ Sunday School / Blessing of the New Parish Council 12:00pm Fellowship 12:45pm Adult Greek School/Youth Greek Dance	22	23	24 5:30pm Great Vespers for the Feast of St. Gregory the Theologian 6:30pm Adult Study Class	25 St. Gregory the Theologian	26	27 4:00pm Byzantine Chant Class 5:00pm Great Vespers
28 15th Sunday of Luke 9:15am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy/ Sunday School 12:00pm Fellowship 12:45pm Youth Greek School/Adult Bible Study	29	30 Three Hierarchs 9:30am Orthros 10:30 Divine Liturgy	31 5:45pm Vespers 6:30pm Adult Study Class			
		Fasting Guide as prescribed by the Church:	<i>This color denotes a Strict Fast Day (basically, vegan/dry eating)</i>	<i>This color denotes an Oil +Wine permissible Fasting day, yet still vegan</i>	<i>This color denotes a Fish permissible Fasting Day, but without meat and dairy products</i>	<i>This color denotes a Cheese permissible Fasting Day, but without meat products</i>

February 2024



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 5:00pm Great Vespers for the Meeting of the Lord	2 Meeting of the Lord in Temple 9:30am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy	3 4:00pm Byzantine Chant Class 5:00pm Great Vespers
4 15th Sunday of Matthew Godparents Sunday 9:15am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy/ Sunday School 12:00pm Fellowship 12:45pm Adult Greek School/ Youth Greek Dance	5	6	7 5:30pm Great Vespers 6:30pm Adult Study Class	8	9 5:00pm Great Vespers and Divine Liturgy for the Feast of St. Haralambos	10 St. Haralambos 4:00pm Byzantine Chant Class 5:00pm Great Vespers
11 16th Sunday of Matthew 9:15am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy/ Sunday School 12:00pm Fellowship 12:45pm Youth Greek School/Adult Bible Study	12	13	14	15	16	17 St. Theodore the Recruit
18 Sunday of the Canaanite 9:15am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy/ Sunday School 12:00pm Fellowship 12:45pm Adult Greek School/Youth Greek Dance	19 President's Day OFFICE CLOSED	20	21 5:45pm Vespers 6:30pm Adult Study Class	22	23	24 4:00pm Byzantine Chant Class 5:00pm Great Vespers
25 Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee / Triodon Begins Today 9:15am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy/ Sunday School 12:00pm Fellowship 12:15pm Handmaidens & Altar Boys Meeting 12:45pm Youth Greek School/ Adult Bible Study	26	27	28 5:45pm Vespers 6:30pm Adult Study Class	29		
		Fasting Guide as prescribed by the Church:	<i>This color denotes a Strict Fast Day (basically, vegan/dry eating)</i>	<i>This color denotes an Oil +Wine permissible Fasting day, yet still vegan</i>	<i>This color denotes a Fish permissible Fasting Day, but without meat and dairy products</i>	<i>This color denotes a Cheese permissible Fasting Day, but without meat products</i>

Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church
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