



# HOLY CROSS

## GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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

### Sunday, December 10, 2023

10<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Luke

Sts. Menas, Hermogenes, and Evgraphos

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

Mode of the Week: Second/Δεύτερος

QR Codes (scan with smart phone for service texts)

Orthros



Divine Liturgy



### Upcoming Schedule

*Today, December 10*

9:15am Orthros  
 10:30am Divine Liturgy on 10<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Luke  
 Sunday School for the Youth following Holy Communion  
 Blessing of the 2024 Stewardship Pledges at the end of the Liturgy  
 Coffee Fellowship in the Parish House after the Liturgy  
 Parish Council Elections during Coffee Fellowship  
 12:45pm Greek School (Adult)/Youth Dance Practice

*Monday, December 11*

11:00am Funeral for Robert Samuel Dunbar, Jr. (preceded by viewing at 10:00am)

*Tuesday, December 12*

9:30am Orthros  
 10:30am Divine Liturgy on the Feast of St. Spyridon the Wonderworker  
 Philoptochos Christmas Pastry Packing after the Liturgy

*Wednesday, December 13*

5:45pm Vespers  
 6:30pm Adult Study: Orthodoxy 101 in the Church Library

*Saturday, December 16*

3:00pm Blessing of the Animals in the Church Courtyard  
 4:00pm Byzantine Chant Class  
 5:00pm Great Vespers

*Sunday, December 17*

9:15am Orthros  
 10:30am Divine Liturgy on the Sunday of the Forefathers and the Feast of St. Dionysios of Zakynthos  
 Christmas Pageant at the end of the Divine Liturgy  
 Coffee Fellowship in the Parish House after the Pageant  
 12:30pm Church Safety Committee Meeting  
 12:45pm Greek School (Youth)/Adult Bible Study

*Tuesday, December 19*

5:00pm Vespers for the Forefeast of the Nativity of Christ  
 6:30pm Parish Council Meeting

*Wednesday, December 20*

5:00pm Vespers for the Forefeast of the Nativity  
 6:00pm Adult Study: Orthodoxy 101 in the Church Library

*Thursday, December 21*

3:00pm Christmas Caroling

*Friday, December 22*

5:00pm Royal Hours for the Nativity of Christ

*Saturday, December 23*

4:00pm Byzantine Chant Class  
 5:00pm Great Vespers

*Sunday, December 24*

9:15am Orthros  
 10:30am Divine Liturgy on the Sunday before Nativity  
 Coffee Fellowship in the Parish House  
 12:45pm Greek School (Adult)/Youth Dance Practice  
 5:00pm Great Vespers for Christmas followed by Christmas Carols

**Upcoming Epistle Readers:** (12/17) George Saratsiotis, Isabelle Saratsiotis; (12/24) Pete Tsamolias, Bryan Gordy  
**Upcoming PC Member On-Duty:** (12/17) Sarah Drakopoulos; (12/24) Melanie Moye; (12/31) Natalia Saratsiotis  
**Upcoming Ushers:** (12/12) Norm+Eleni; (12/13) Cristina L.; (12/16) Melanie; (12/17) Cleo, Tassie; (12/19) David Z.  
**Upcoming Video Operators:** (12/12) Cristina L.; (12/17) Cristina L.; (12/22) TBD; (12/24) David Z.; (12/25) Gray Y.  
**Upcoming Fellowship Hosts:** (12/10) Maria McCluskey; (12/17) Helen Vardy; (12/24) Cheryl Schwartzkopf

### **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 worshipping 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 ὑμνησίς μου ὁ Κύριος,  
καὶ ἐγένετό μοι εἰς σωτηρίαν.*

*Στίχ. Παιδεύων ἐπαίδευσέ με ὁ  
Κύριος, καὶ τῷ θανάτῳ οὐ παρέδωκέ  
με.*

+++

*Πρὸς Ἐφεσίους Ἐπιστολῆς Παύλου τὸ  
ἀνάγνωσμα.*

+++

Ἀδελφοί, ἐνδυναμοῦσθε ἐν κυρίῳ, καὶ ἐν τῷ κράτει τῆς ἰσχύος αὐτοῦ. Ἐνδύσασθε τὴν πανοπλίαν τοῦ θεοῦ, πρὸς τὸ δύνασθαι ὑμᾶς στήναι πρὸς τὰς μεθοδείας τοῦ διαβόλου. Ὅτι οὐκ ἔστιν ἡμῖν ἡ πάλη πρὸς αἷμα καὶ σάρκα, ἀλλὰ πρὸς τὰς ἀρχάς, πρὸς τὰς ἐξουσίας, πρὸς τοὺς κοσμοκράτορας τοῦ σκότους τοῦ αἰῶνος τούτου, πρὸς τὰ πνευματικὰ τῆς πονηρίας ἐν τοῖς ἐπουρανίοις. Διὰ τοῦτο ἀναλάβετε τὴν πανοπλίαν τοῦ θεοῦ, ἵνα δυνηθῆτε ἀντιστῆναι ἐν τῇ ἡμέρᾳ τῇ πονηρᾷ, καὶ ἅπαντα κατεργασάμενοι στήναι. Στῆτε οὖν περιζωσάμενοι τὴν ὀσφὺν ὑμῶν ἐν ἀληθείᾳ, καὶ ἐνδυσάμενοι τὸν θώρακα τῆς δικαιοσύνης, καὶ ὑποδησάμενοι τοὺς πόδας ἐν ἐτοιμασίᾳ τοῦ εὐαγγελίου τῆς εἰρήνης· ἐπὶ πᾶσιν ἀναλαμβάνοντες τὸν θυρεὸν τῆς πίστεως, ἐν ᾧ δυνησθεσθε πάντα τὰ βέλη τοῦ πονηροῦ τὰ πεπυρωμένα σβέσαι. Καὶ τὴν περικεφαλαίαν τοῦ σωτηρίου δέξασθαι, καὶ τὴν μάχαιραν τοῦ πνεύματος, ὃ ἐστὶν ῥῆμα θεοῦ.

*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. (Ps. 117)*

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*The reading is from Paul's Letter to  
the Ephesians. (6:10-17)*

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Brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we are not contending against flesh and blood, but against the principalities, against the powers, against the world rulers of this present darkness, against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand, therefore, having girded your loins with truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the equipment of the gospel of peace; besides all these, taking the shield of faith, with which you can quench all the flaming darts of the evil one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

## The Holy Gospel Reading according to St. Luke (13:10-17)

### 10<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Luke

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, Ἦν δὲ διδάσκων ἐν μιᾷ τῶν συναγωγῶν ἐν τοῖς σάββασι. καὶ ἰδοὺ γυνὴ ἦν πνεῦμα ἔχουσα ἀσθενείας ἔτη δέκα καὶ ὀκτώ, καὶ ἦν συγκύπτουσα καὶ μὴ δυναμένη ἀνακῦψαι εἰς τὸ παντελές. ἰδὼν δὲ αὐτὴν ὁ Ἰησοῦς προσεφώνησε καὶ εἶπεν αὐτῇ· γύναι, ἀπολέλυσαι τῆς ἀσθενείας σου· καὶ ἐπέθηκεν αὐτῇ τὰς χεῖρας· καὶ παραχρῆμα ἀνωρθώθη καὶ ἐδόξαζε τὸν Θεόν. ἀποκριθεὶς δὲ ὁ ἀρχισυνάγωγος, ἀγανακτῶν ὅτι τῷ σαββάτῳ ἐθεράπευσεν ὁ Ἰησοῦς, ἔλεγε τῷ ὄχλῳ· ἕξ ἡμέραι εἰσὶν ἐν αἷς δεῖ ἐργάζεσθαι· ἐν ταύταις οὖν ἐρχόμενοι θεραπεύεσθε, καὶ μὴ τῇ ἡμέρᾳ τοῦ σαββάτου. ἀπεκρίθη οὖν αὐτῷ ὁ Κύριος καὶ εἶπεν· ὑποκριτά, ἕκαστος ὑμῶν τῷ σαββάτῳ οὐ λύει τὸν βοῦν αὐτοῦ ἢ τὸν ὄνον ἀπὸ τῆς φάτνης καὶ ἀπαγαγὼν ποτίζει; ταύτην δέ, θυγατέρα Ἀβραὰμ οὖσαν, ἣν ἔδησεν ὁ σατανᾶς ἰδοὺ δέκα καὶ ὀκτὼ ἔτη, οὐκ ἔδει λυθῆναι ἀπὸ τοῦ δεσμοῦ τούτου τῇ ἡμέρᾳ τοῦ σαββάτου; καὶ ταῦτα λέγοντος αὐτοῦ κατησχύνοντο πάντες οἱ ἀντικείμενοι αὐτῷ, καὶ πᾶς ὁ ὄχλος ἔχαιρεν ἐπὶ πᾶσι τοῖς ἐνδόξοις τοῖς γινομένοις ὑπ' αὐτοῦ.

At that time, Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath. And there was a woman who had a spirit of infirmity for eighteen years; she was bent over and could not fully straighten herself. And when Jesus saw her, he called her and said to her, "Woman, you are freed from your infirmity." And he laid his hands upon her, and immediately she was made straight, and she praised God. But the ruler of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had healed on the sabbath, said to the people, "There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be healed, and not on the sabbath day." Then the Lord answered him, "You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger, and lead it away to water it? And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the sabbath day?" As he said this, all his adversaries were put to shame; and all the people rejoiced at all the glorious things that were done by him.

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## GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

Rev. Fr. Theodore Ehmer

Προϊστάμενος/Presiding Priest

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Holy Confession: call or email Fr. to schedule

### Bulletin for the week of December 10, 2023

Ushers on Duty: Sarah Drakopoulos, Charles Glotzbach

Video: Natalia Saratsiotis Altar Servers: All Adult/Youth Servers

Epistle Readers: Aleca Hortman (Greek), Charles Glotzbach (English)

Fellowship Host (Thank You!): Maria McCluskey

PC Member On-Duty: Charles Glotzbach



### Today our Holy Orthodox Church commemorates:

+ The Holy Martyrs Menas "Kallikelados", Hermogenes, and Evgraphos (+235)

Saint Menas, according to the Synaxaristes, had Athens as his homeland. He was a military officer, an educated man and skilled in speech, wherefore he was surnamed Kallikelados ("most eloquent"); Egraphus was his scribe. Both had Christian parents. The Emperor Maximinus (he was the successor of Alexander Severus, and reigned from 235 to 238) sent Saint Menas to Alexandria to employ his eloquence to end a certain strife among the citizens. Saint Menas, having accomplished this, also employed his eloquence to strengthen the Christians in their faith, which when Maximinus heard, he sent Hermogenes, who was an eparch born to unbelievers to turn Menas away from Christ. But Hermogenes rather came to the Faith of Christ because of the miracles wrought by Saint Menas. Saints Menas, Egraphus, and Hermogenes received the crown of martyrdom in the year 235.

+ The Holy Martyr Gemellos (+362)

He was martyred by crucifixion at Ancyra, in Asia Minor, during the reign of Julian the Apostate. He was a native of Paphlagonia. He is said to be the last Christian martyr who was killed by crucifixion. Hearing that the Emperor Julian was at Ancyra, Gemellos had traveled there to criticize the emperor for his apostasy, and was tortured and killed at Ancyra (or, according to one source, at Edessa). A church dedicated to Saint Gemellos was located at Sykeon, a village on the Siberis River in Asia Minor.

+ Our Devout Father Thomas Dephucinos (+10<sup>th</sup> Century)

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 (pg. 8 in the Small Book/pg. 37 in the Hymnal):

- 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!" (Sung before and after the Small Entrance. Greek text found in large hymnal on pg. 102)

- Hymn of Sts. Menas, Hermogenes, and Evgraphos (Δι'εγκρατείας των παθών, Plagal of the Fourth Mode):

When they had deadened burning impulses and movements of sinful passions by their self-control and virtue, then the Martyrs of Christ were given the divine grace of driving away the illnesses of the sick and working wonders, alive and after their death. Paradoxical miracle it is indeed, that naked bones should pour out cures abundantly. Glory be to our only God.

- 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 Nativity of Christ (H Παρθένος σήμερον, Third Mode):

On this day the Virgin Maid \* goes to the grotto to give birth \* to the pre-eternal Word \* in an ineffable manner. \* Dance for joy, all the inhabited earth, on hearing. \* Glorify along with Angels and with the shepherds \* Him who willed that He appear as \* a newborn Child, \* the pre-eternal God. (Greek text found in large hymnal on pg. 241)

## Guidance, Prayer Requests, and Announcements

### This Week's Daily

**Scripture Readings and Fasting Guidance:**

**Sunday (12/10—Fish, Wine, Oil):** Luke 24:12-35; Ephesians 6:10-17; Luke 13:10-17

**Monday (12/11—Fish, Wine, Oil):** II Timothy 2:20-26; Mark 8:11-21

**Tuesday (12/12—St. Spyridon—Wine+Oil):** John 10:1-9; Ephesians 5:8-19; John 10:9-16

**Wednesday (12/13—Strict Fast):** II Timothy 4:9-22; Mark 8:30-34

**Thursday (12/14—Strict Fast):** Titus 1:5-14; Mark 9:10-15

**Friday (12/15—Wine+Oil):** II Timothy 1:8-18; Mark 2:23-28; 3:1-5

**Saturday (12/16—Wine+Oil):** Ephesians 1:16-23; Luke 14:1-11

### Prayer Requests:

Fr. Symeon (mission priest supported by our parish), Panteleimon, Michael, Evthalia, Kassiani, Michael, Dimitrios, Georgia, Pavlos, Betty, Chris, Irene, Valerie, Dianna, Keith, Jeannie, Dawn, Kenneth, Hermione, Emmanuel, Mary, Kay, Helen, Nikki, Mena, Austin, Kiley, Garrett, Carolina, Maria, Laurie, Lindsey, Randy, Marina, Effie, Christina, Ashley, Foster, Peggy, Lynn, Dimitri, Stelianos, Brian, Vassilios, Bessie, Katerina, Link, Kathy, Bill, Virginia, Karl, Colin, Mitch

### Prayers for those recently reposed:

John (+November 22), Panagiotis/Pete (+November 27), Marin (+November 27), Samuel/Bob (+December 7), Sophia (+December 7)

### Prayers for expecting mothers:

Hannah K., Julieta L., Muryah S.

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

### Weekly Wisdom of the Fathers:

**St. Barsanuphios the Great** with wisdom regarding calling upon the Name of the Lord: "In times of affliction, unceasingly call out to the merciful God in prayer. The unceasing invocation of the name of God in prayer is a treatment for the soul which kills not only the passions, but even their very operation. As a doctor finds the necessary medicine, and it works in such a way that the sick person does not understand, in just the same way the name of God, when you call upon it, kills all the passions, although we don't know how this happens."

### Upcoming Celebrations This Week

Name Days—Chronia Polla, Many Years!

December 11: Adam Kangas

December 12: Spyros Dermatas, Dragos Filimon

December 16: Danaï Esquivel

Birthdays—Happy Birthday!

December 10: Spyros Dermatas

December 11: Denna Bradford

December 12: Fr. Michael Vastakis

December 13: Kostas Iakovidis

December 14: Erick Schwartzkopf

Anniversaries—Congratulations!

December 11: Brad and Jordan Perry

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

### Announcements:

\* **Philoptochos:** The Philoptochos is collecting 2T-4T clothing, baby wash and lotion, jackets of all sizes, and stuffies as a Nativity Almsgiving opportunity supporting the work of The Kolbe Center (our local crisis pregnancy center) and the Outreach Program of the Macon-Bibb Sheriffs Dept. Donations need to be received to the Church by next Sunday. Delivery of items and tour of the Kolbe Center: 12/19 at 1:00p.

\* **Orthodoxy 101** will take place this **Wednesday** evening at 6:30pm in the Church Library after the Vespers. The topic will be A Summary of the Ecclesiastical Year in the Orthodox Church (September to August). Why is the Church's calendar relevant? Zoom link is available for anyone who would like to join digitally, please contact Fr. Theodore for more info!

\* As a reminder, the **Bookstore** is open on Wednesday afternoons from 3:00 to 5:00. A great option for Christmas gifts!

\* **Christmas Poinsettias:** If you would like to sponsor a poinsettia "In Memory of" or "In Honor of", please fill out the form that was sent by email and turn in your payment in the collection tray or in the box located in the Narthex. Deadline is next Sunday, December 17th!

\* Save the Date—**Blessing of the Animals** will take place once again this year—this coming Saturday, December 16 (the Feast of St. Modestos) at 3:00pm in the Church Courtyard. Please plan to bring an offering such as laundry detergent, bleach, fleece blankets, etc. to assist the Houston County Humane Society.

\* **Youth:** Nativity (Christmas) Pageant will be taking place next Sunday, December 17 at the end of the Divine Liturgy. Practice taking place during and after Sunday School today.

\* Today we will have the blessing of the **2024 Stewardship Pledges**. Even if you did not have the chance to make a pledge for 2024 yet, you may return your trifold to the Church after today.

\* **Safety Committee** meeting will be held next Sunday, December 17th at 12:30pm. Please mark your calendar for this important meeting for those participating in this committee.