HOLY CROSS
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
859 First Street | Macon, Georgia 31201 | 478.621.0744 (office)
www.holycrossga.org | Facebook: HolyCrossMaconGA

Sunday, December 10, 2023
10th Sunday of Luke
Sts. Menas, Hermogenes, and Evgraphos
Mode of the Week: Second/Δεύτερος
QR Codes (scan with smart phone for service texts)

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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.
Σῶσον 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!

Upcoming Schedule

Today, December 10
9:15am Orthros
10:30am Divine Liturgy on 10th 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. Spiridon the Wonderworker
Philoptochos Christmas Pastry Packing after the Liturgy

Wednesday, December 13
5:45pm Vespers
6:30pm Adult Study: Orthodox 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. Demetrios 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 Forefathers of the Nativity of Christ
6:30pm Parish Council Meeting

Wednesday, December 20
5:00pm Vespers for the Forefathers of the Nativity
6:00pm Adult Study: Orthodox 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
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; (12/31) Natalia Saratsiotis

Upcoming Ushers: (12/12) Norm+Eleni; (12/13) Cristina L.; (12/16) Melanie Moye; (12/31) Natalia Saratsiotis

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

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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)

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)

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.
Today our Holy Orthodox Church

• 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 (Ο ύπαρξεις)
- Hymn of the Holy Cross (Στοιχειώσα τον πάθος, Plagal of the Fourth Mode)
- Hymn of the Holy Maidens (Στ. Μαρία, Χριστίνη, Νατάσσα, Καθεδρούσα, Παναγιώτης, Λουκάντης, Νικηφόρος, Δημητρίου, Αγγελία, Βασίλη, Μαρία)
- Kontakion of the Nativity of Christ (Χ εν οικείας

Prayer Requests:

Fr. Symeon (mission priest supported by our parish), Fr. Demetrious Christodoulou, Fr. Dimitrios, Fr. Menas, Fr. Inocent, Fr. Michael, Fr. Mikhail, Fr. Dimitrios, Georgia, Pavlos, Betty, Chris, Irene, Valerie, Dianna, Keith, Jeannie, Dawn, Kenneth, Hermione, Emmanuel, Mary, Kay, Helen, Nikki, Men, Austin, Kyle, Garrett, Carolina, Maria, Laurie, Lindsay, Randy, Alfred, Christina, Ashley, Foster, Peggy, Lynn, Dimitri, Stelano, Brian, Vassilises, Bessie, Katerina, Link, Kathy, Bill, Collin, Mitch

Prayers for those recently reposed:

John (+November 22), Panagiotis/Pete (+November 27), John (+November 27), Samuel/Bob (+December 11, Sophia (+December 7)

Prayers for Expecting Mothers:

- Maria (+November 22)

Prayers for Military Personnel and Their Families:

Aubriana Butchko, Kyle Glotzbach, Robert Ice, Aaron Vrachtos, Alekzander Zajac

Prayers for our Catechumens and Inquirers into the Orthodox Church:

Bobbie, CJ, Ethan, Jake, James, Jessica, Nate and for those who are seeking Christ and His Church!

Weekly Wisdom of the Fathers:

St. Barsanuphios the Great with wisdom regarding caring for those who are seeking Christ and His Church!

This Week's Daily Scripture Readings and Fasting Guidance:


Monday (12/11—Fish, Wine, Oil): II Timothy 2:20-25; Mark 8:11-21

Tuesday (12/12—St. Spyridon—Wine+Oil): John 10:15-19; Ephesians 5:8-18; John 10:15-16

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

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

Friday (12/15—Wine+Oil): II Timothy 1:18-18; Mark 8:30-34


Guidance, Prayer Requests, and Announcements

• Philotheos: The Philotheos is collecting 2T-AT 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). Donations need to be received by December 21. For more information, 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 to the Church (September to August). Why is the Church calendar relevant? Zoom link is available for anyone who would like to join digitally, please contact Fr. Theodore for more info!

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• 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 3:00p 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 once again this year—this coming Saturday, December 17 (the Divine Liturgy). Practice taking place during and after Sunday School today.

• Today we will have the blessing of the 2023 Stewardship Pledges. Even if you did not have the chance to make a pledge for 2023 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.

To those who are seeking Christ and His Church!

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