



HOLY CROSS

GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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

Sunday, December 17, 2023

Sunday of the Forefathers
 St. Dionysios of Zakynthos

Eothinon/Orthros Gospel: Sixth (Luke 24:36-53)

Mode of the Week: Third/Τρίτος

QR Codes (scan with smart phone for service texts)

Orthros



Divine Liturgy



Upcoming Schedule

<i>Today, December 17</i>	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 Christmas Pageant 12:30pm Church Safety Committee Meeting 12:45pm Greek School (Youth)/Adult Bible Study
<i>Tuesday, December 19</i>	5:00pm Vespers for the Forefeast of the Nativity of Christ 6:30pm Parish Council Meeting
<i>Wednesday, December 20</i>	5:00pm Vespers for the Forefeast of the Nativity 6:00pm Adult Study: Orthodoxy 101 in the Church Library
<i>Thursday, December 21</i>	3:00pm Christmas Caroling
<i>Friday, December 22</i>	5:00pm Royal Hours for the Nativity of Christ
<i>Saturday, December 23</i>	4:00pm Byzantine Chant Class 5:00pm Great Vespers
<i>Sunday, December 24</i>	9:15am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy on the Sunday before Nativity Coffee Fellowship in the Parish House 12:45pm Greek School (Adult) 5:00pm Great Vespers for Christmas followed by Christmas Carols
<i>Monday, December 25</i>	7:15am Orthros 8:30am Divine Liturgy of St. Basil on the Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord (Christmas)
<i>Wednesday, December 27-Saturday, December 30</i>	Winter Youth Rally
<i>Saturday, December 30</i>	4:00pm Byzantine Chant Class 5:00pm Great Vespers
<i>Sunday, December 31</i>	9:15am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy on the Sunday after Nativity Memorial Service for Emmanuel Zaharakis and Kalliopi Kaneris (family of Nick and Antigone Michalakis) at the end of the Liturgy Coffee Fellowship in the Parish House 12:45pm Greek School (Youth)/Adult Bible Study 1:00pm Great Vespers for the Feast of St. Basil
<i>Monday, January 1</i>	9:15am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy on the Feast Day of St. Basil the Great

Upcoming Epistle Readers: (12/24) Pete Tsamolias, Bryan Gordy; (12/31) Kostas Iakovidis, Nadia Cazacu
Upcoming PC Member On-Duty: (12/24) Melanie Moyer; (12/31) Natalia Saratsiotis; (1/7) Gray Yates
Upcoming Ushers: (12/19) David Z.; (12/20) Cristina L.; (12/22) Maria S.; (12/23) Sarah D.; (12/24) Sarah, Joanna P.
Upcoming Video Operators: (12/22) TBD; (12/24) David Z.; (12/25) Gray Y.; (12/31) Gray/David N.; (1/1) Joanna P.
Upcoming Fellowship Hosts: (12/24) Cheryl Schwartzkopf; (12/31) Antigone Michalakis; (1/7) Philoptochos

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

Εὐλογητὸς εἶ Κύριε ὁ Θεὸς τῶν
πατέρων ἡμῶν.

Στίχ. Ὅτι δίκαιος εἶ ἐπὶ πᾶσιν, οἷς
ἐποίησας ἡμῖν.

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Πρὸς Κολασσαεῖς Ἐπιστολῆς
Παύλου τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα.

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Ἀδελφοί, ὅταν ὁ Χριστὸς
φανερωθῆ, ἡ ζωὴ ὑμῶν, τότε καὶ
ὑμεῖς σὺν αὐτῷ φανερωθήσεσθε ἐν
δόξῃ. Νεκρώσατε οὖν τὰ μέλη τὰ
ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς, πορνείαν, ἀκαθαρσίαν,
πάθος, ἐπιθυμίαν κακὴν, καὶ τὴν
πλεονεξίαν ἣτις ἐστὶν
εἰδωλολατρία, δι' ἧς ἔρχεται ἡ ὀργὴ
τοῦ Θεοῦ ἐπὶ τοὺς υἱοὺς τῆς
ἀπειθείας· ἐν οἷς καὶ ὑμεῖς
περιεπατήσατέ ποτε ὅτε ἐζήτε ἐν
αὐτοῖς. Νυνὶ δὲ ἀπόθεσθε καὶ ὑμεῖς
τὰ πάντα, ὀργὴν, θυμὸν, κακίαν,
βλασφημίαν, αἰσχρολογίαν ἐκ τοῦ
στόματος ὑμῶν· μὴ ψεύδεσθε εἰς
ἀλλήλους, ἀπεκδυσάμενοι τὸν
παλαιὸν ἄνθρωπον σὺν ταῖς
πράξεσιν αὐτοῦ, καὶ ἐνδυσάμενοι
τὸν νέον τὸν ἀνακαινούμενον εἰς
ἐπίγνωσιν κατ' εἰκόνα τοῦ
κτίσαντος αὐτόν, ὅπου οὐκ ἐνὶ
Ἑλλήνι καὶ Ἰουδαίῳ, περιτομῇ καὶ
ἀκροβυστία, βάρβαρος, Σκύθης,
δοῦλος, ἐλεύθερος, ἀλλὰ τὰ πάντα
καὶ ἐν πᾶσι Χριστός.

*Blessed are You, O Lord God of
our fathers.*

*Verse: For You are righteous in
all You did for us. (Prayer of
Azariah)*

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*The reading is from Paul's Letter
to the Colossians. (3:4-11)*

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Brethren, when Christ who is our
life appears, then you also will
appear with him in glory. Put to
death therefore what is earthly in
you: fornication, impurity,
passion, evil desire, and
covetousness, which is idolatry.
On account of these the wrath of
God is coming upon the sons of
disobedience. In these you once
walked, when you lived in them.
But now put them all away;
anger, wrath, malice, slander, and
foul talk from your mouth. Do not
lie to one another, seeing that you
have put off the old nature with
its practices and have put on the
new nature, which is being
renewed in knowledge after the
image of its creator. Here there
cannot be Greek and Jew,
circumcised and uncircumcised,
barbarian, Scythian, slave, free
man, but Christ is all, and in all.

The Holy Gospel Reading according to St. Luke (14:16-24)

Sunday of the Forefathers

Εἶπεν ὁ Κύριος τὴν παραβολὴν
ταύτην· Ἄνθρωπός τις ἐποίησε
δεῖπνον μέγα, καὶ ἐκάλεσε πολλούς·
καὶ ἀπέστειλε τὸν δούλον αὐτοῦ τῇ
ᾠρᾷ τοῦ δείπνου εἰπεῖν τοῖς
κεκλημένοις· ἔρχεσθε, ὅτι ἤδη ἔτοιμά
ἐστι πάντα. καὶ ἤρξαντο ἀπὸ μιᾶς
παρατεῖσθαι πάντες, ὁ πρῶτος εἶπεν
αὐτῷ· ἀγρὸν ἠγόρασα, καὶ ἔχω
ἀνάγκην ἐξελεῖν καὶ ἰδεῖν αὐτόν·
ἐρωτῶ σε, ἔχε με παρητημένον. καὶ
ἕτερος εἶπε· ζεύγη βοῶν ἠγόρασα
πέντε, καὶ πορεύομαι δοκιμάσαι
αὐτά· ἐρωτῶ σε, ἔχε με
παρητημένον. καὶ ἕτερος εἶπε·
γυναῖκα ἔγημα, καὶ διὰ τοῦτο οὐ
δύναμαι ἐλθεῖν. καὶ παραγενόμενος ὁ
δοῦλος ἐκεῖνος ἀπήγγειλε τῷ κυρίῳ
αὐτοῦ ταῦτα. τότε ὀργισθεὶς ὁ
οἰκοδεσπότης εἶπε τῷ δούλῳ αὐτοῦ·
ἐξελθε ταχέως εἰς τὰς πλατείας καὶ
ρύμας τῆς πόλεως, καὶ τοὺς πτωχοὺς
καὶ ἀναπήρους καὶ χωλοὺς καὶ
τυφλοὺς εἰσάγαγε ὧδε. καὶ εἶπεν ὁ
δοῦλος· κύριε, γέγονεν ὡς ἐπέταξας,
καὶ ἔτι τόπος ἐστί. καὶ εἶπεν ὁ Κύριος
πρὸς τὸν δούλον· Ἐξελθε εἰς τὰς
ὁδοὺς καὶ φραγμοὺς καὶ ἀνάγκασον
εἰσελεῖν, ἵνα γεμισθῇ ὁ οἶκός μου.
λέγω γὰρ ὑμῖν ὅτι οὐδεὶς τῶν ἀνδρῶν
ἐκείνων τῶν κεκλημένων γεύσεται
μου τοῦ δείπνου. Πολλοὶ γὰρ εἰσι
κλητοί, ὀλίγοι δὲ ἐκλεκτοί.

The Lord said this parable: "A
man once gave a great banquet,
and invited many; and at the time
of the banquet he sent his servant
to say to those who had been
invited, 'Come; for all is now
ready.' But they all alike began to
make excuses. The first said to
him, 'I have bought a field, and I
go out and see it; I pray you, have
me excused.' And another said, 'I
have bought five yoke of oxen, and
I must go to examine them; I pray
you, have me excused.' And
another said, 'I have married a
wife, and therefore I cannot come.'
So the servant came and reported
this to his master. Then the
householder in anger said to his
servant, 'Go out quickly to the
streets and lanes of the city, and
bring in the poor and maimed and
blind and lame.' And the servant
said, 'Sir, what you commanded
has been done, and there is still
room.' And the master said to the
servant, 'Go out to the highways
and hedges, and compel people to
come in, that my house may be
filled. For I tell you, none of those
men who were invited shall taste
my banquet. For many are called,
but few are chosen.'"

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GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

Rev. Fr. Theodore Ehmer

Προϊστάμενος/Presiding Priest

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Office Days: Tuesday through Friday; call or email Fr. for appointment

Holy Confession: call or email Fr. to schedule

Bulletin for the week of December 17, 2023

Ushers on Duty: Cleo Bennette, Tassie Cantrell

Video: Cristina Lekas

Altar Servers: All Adult/Youth Servers

Epistle Readers: George Saratsiotis (Greek), Isabelle Saratsiotis (English)

Fellowship Host (Thank You!): Helen Vardy

PC Member On-Duty: Sarah Drakopoulos



Today our Holy Orthodox Church commemorates:

- + Our Father among the Saints, Dionysios of Zakynthos, Archbishop of Aegina (+1621)

The holy hierarch, Saint Dionysius, who was born and reared on Zakynthos, was the son of pious and wealthy parents, Mocius and Paulina by name. In his youth he entered the ancient monastery of the Strophada Islands, which lie south of Zakynthos, and there he donned the monastic habit. Later, he was appointed Archbishop of Aegina, and adorned its throne for a considerable time. Thereafter he returned to his homeland. One incident in his life especially reveals to what virtue he attained. A man came to him in desperation, witnessing that he had committed a murder, and was being pursued by the slain man's family. He asked Saint Dionysius to give him refuge. The Saint agreed to this, upon learning that it was his own brother whom the man had slain, he said nothing, but concealing the agony of his grief, hid him. When the Saint's kinsmen arrived at the monastery, he told them that the Murderer had gone by such and such a way. When they had departed, he admonished the man concerning the gravity of his sin, instructed him in repentance, and sent him off in peace having forgiven him his brother's murder. According to local tradition, this man later returned and became a monk at this same monastery. Saint Dionysius reposed in peace in 1621, leaving behind his sacred and incorrupt relics as a treasure for his fellow citizens.

- + Daniel the Prophet and the Three Holy Servants (Ananias, Azarias, and Misail) [+600's BC]

The Church celebrates the Three Children and Daniel on this day, on the Sunday of the Forefathers, and on the Sunday before the Nativity of Christ, since they prefigured and proclaimed His Incarnation. Furthermore, they were of the tribe of Judah, wherefrom, Christ sprang forth according to the flesh. The holy Three Children completed their lives full of days; as for the Prophet Daniel, he lived until the reign of Cyrus, King of Persia, whom he also petitioned that his nation be allowed to return to Jerusalem and that the Temple be raised up again, and his request was granted. He reposed in Peace, having lived about eighty-eight years.

- + The Holy Martyrs Patermuthios, Copris, Alexander, Dunaleh, and Iacchus

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 (Ευφρανέσθω τα ουράνια, Third Mode):*

Let the heavens be glad. Let the earth rejoice exceedingly. For the Lord has shown strength with his arm. He trampled death by death. He became the first-born of the dead. Out of the belly of Hades, He has rescued us, and to the world He has granted the great mercy. (*Sung before and after the Small Entrance. Greek text found in large hymnal on pg. 106*)

- *Hymn of the Forefathers (Εν πίστει τους Προπάτορας, Second Mode):*

By faith You justified the Forefathers, having through them betrothed to yourself the Church that came out of the nations. The saints are boasting in glory; for the glorious fruit, the Virgin who without seed gave birth to You, is from their progeny. At their entreaties, O Christ our God, save our souls.

- *Hymn of St. Dionysios (Της Ζακύνθου τον γόνον, First Mode):*

To the offspring of Zakynthos and bishop of Aegina, * protector of Strophades Monastery, Saint Dionysios, * O believers, let us all with one accord * pay honor, and sincerely say to him: * "By your fervent prayers save us, who are observing your memory and who call to you: * Glory to Christ who glorified you; * glory to Him who made you marvelous; * glory to Him who gave us you to intercede for us."

- *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 (Η Παρθένος σήμερα, 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 (12/17—Wine+Oil): Luke 24:36-53; Colossians 3:4-11; Luke 14:16-24

Monday (12/18—Strict Fast): Hebrews 3:5-11,17-19; Mark 9:42-50, 10:1

Tuesday (12/19—Strict Fast): Hebrews 4:1-13; Mark 10:2-12

Wednesday (12/20—Wine+Oil): Hebrews 10:32-38; Mark 9:33-41

Thursday (12/21—Strict Fast): Hebrews 7:1-6; Mark 10:17-27

Friday (12/22—St. Anastasia—Strict Fast): Hebrews 7:18-25; Mark 10:24-32

Saturday (12/23—Wine+Oil): Galatians 3:8-12; Luke 13:19-29

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, April

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. John Chrysostom on raising up children with wisdom as the first priority: "Let everything take second place to our care of our children, our bringing them up to the discipline and instruction of the Lord. If from the beginning we teach them to love true wisdom, they will have great wealth and glory than riches can provide. If a child learns a trade, or is highly educated for a lucrative profession, all this is nothing compared to the art of detachment from riches; if you want to make your child rich, teach him this. He is truly rich who does not desire

great possessions, or surround himself with wealth, but who requires nothing...Don't think that only monks need to learn the Bible; Children about to go our into the world stand in greater need of Scriptural knowledge."

Upcoming Celebrations This Week

Name Days—Chronia Polla, Many Years!

December 17: Holly Economopoulos, Connor Aaron Morris, David Needham

December 22: Presvytera Stacey Ehmer

Birthdays—Happy Birthday!

December 17: Kathye Patras

December 18: Guy Holland, Lilly Anne Syribeys

December 21: Tony Economopoulos

December 23: Logan Wells

Anniversaries—Congratulations!

(None in the Records)

(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 today. Delivery of items and tour of the Kolbe Center: 12/19 at 1:00pm.

***Orthodoxy 101** will take place this **Wednesday** evening at 6:30pm in the Church Library after the Vespers. The topic will be *The Architecture of Church*. A walk-through of the interior of the Church and the meaning, symbolism, and theology. 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 today!

***Youth:** Nativity (Christmas) Pageant will be taking place at the end of the Divine Liturgy today. Please plan to stay and watch our youth during this special time.

***Safety Committee** meeting will be held today at 12:30pm.

*The Holy Cross Choir and Youth invite all parishioners to join them in spreading some cheer with **Christmas Carols and Kalanda** on Thursday, December 21st (2:30pm in Macon & 4pm in South Macon/Warner Robins). Cookies and hot chocolate at the Zdrakas Home to wrap up the evening! Text Presvytera Stacey @ 770.827.7145 for caravan route if you will be participating.

* **Blood Drive:** Tue, January 3 at 3-7pm in the Parish House.