



HOLY CROSS

GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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

Sunday, December 24, 2023

Sunday before the Nativity of the Lord

St. Eugenia the Martyr

Eothinon/Orthros Gospel: Seventh (John 20:1-10)

Mode of the Week: Fourth/Τέταρτος

QR Codes (scan with smart phone for service texts)

Orthros



Divine Liturgy



Upcoming Schedule

<i>Today, December 24</i>	9:15am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy on the Sunday before Nativity of the Lord 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 Day of the Nativity of Our Lord (Christmas)
<i>Wednesday, December 27</i>	11:00am Funeral for Eve McElrath (preceded by Visitation at 10:00am)
<i>Wednesday, December 27-Saturday, December 30</i>	Winter Youth Rally in Atlanta
<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) 1:00pm Great Vespers for the Feast of St. Basil
<i>Monday, January 1</i>	9:15am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy of St. Basil on the Feast of St. Basil the Great
<i>Wednesday, January 3</i>	3-7pm Red Cross Blood Drive in the Parish House
<i>Friday, January 5</i>	9:30am Royal Hours of Theophany 5:00pm Vespers Liturgy on the Eve of Theophany and Blessing of the Waters
<i>Saturday, January 6</i>	9:30am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy on the Feast of Holy Theophany (Epiphany) and Great Blessing of the Waters 1:30pm Organizing of the Back Building from the Festival 4:00pm Byzantine Chant Class 5:00pm Great Vespers
<i>Sunday, January 7</i>	9:15am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy on the Sunday after Theophany and the Synaxis of St. John the Baptist Coffee Fellowship in the Parish House with the Cutting of the Vasilopita sponsored by Philoptochos 12:45pm Greek School (Adult)/Youth Dance Practice
<i>Wednesday, January 10</i>	5:45pm Vespers 6:30pm Adult Study Class: Orthodoxy 101 in the Library
<p>Upcoming Epistle Readers: (12/31) Aleca Hortman, Nadia Cazacu; (1/7) Aleca Hortman, Mike Cantrell Upcoming PC Member On-Duty: (12/31) Natalia Saratsiotis; (1/7) Gray Yates; (1/14) Maria McCluskey Upcoming Ushers: (12/25) Maria S.; (12/31) Erick+Cheryl S.; (1/1) Maria S.; (1/5am) Melanie M., (1/5pm) Maria S. Upcoming Video Operators: (12/25) Gray Y.; (12/31) Gray/David N; (1/1) Joanna P.; (1/5pm) Christina D. Upcoming Fellowship Hosts: (12/31) Antigone Michalakis; (1/7) Philoptochos; (1/14) Natalia Saratsiotis</p>	

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 Ἑβραίους Ἐπιστολῆς Παύλου τὸ
ἀνάγνωσμα.*

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Ἀδελφοί, πίστει παρώκησεν Ἀβραάμ εἰς γῆν τῆς ἐπαγγελίας ὡς ἄλλοτριαν, ἐν σκηναῖς κατοικήσας μετὰ Ἰσαὰκ καὶ Ἰακώβ τῶν συγκληρονόμων τῆς ἐπαγγελίας τῆς αὐτῆς· ἐξεδέχετο γὰρ τὴν τοὺς θεμελίους ἔχουσαν πόλιν, ἧς τεχνίτης καὶ δημιουργὸς ὁ θεός. Καὶ τί ἔτι λέγω; ἐπιλείπει με γὰρ διηγούμενον ὁ χρόνος περὶ Γεδεών, Βαράκ, Σαμψών, Ἰεφθάε, Δαυὶδ τε καὶ Σαμουὴλ καὶ τῶν προφητῶν, οἱ διὰ πίστεως κατηγωνίσαντο βασιλείας, εἰργάσαντο δικαιοσύνην, ἐπέτυχον ἐπαγγελιῶν, ἔφραξαν στόματα λεόντων, ἔσβεσαν δύναμιν πυρός, ἔφυγον στόματα μαχαίρης, ἐδυναμώθησαν ἀπὸ ἀσθενείας, ἐγενήθησαν ἰσχυροὶ ἐν πολέμῳ, παρεμβολὰς ἐκλιναν ἄλλοτριῶν· ἔλαβον γυναῖκες ἐξ ἀναστάσεως τοὺς νεκροὺς αὐτῶν· ἄλλοι δὲ ἐτυμπανίσθησαν, οὐ προσδεξάμενοι τὴν ἀπολύτρωσιν, ἵνα κρείττονος ἀναστάσεως τύχωσιν· ἔτεροι δὲ ἐμπαιγμῶν καὶ μαστίγων πείραν ἔλαβον, ἔτι δὲ δεσμῶν καὶ φυλακῆς ἐλιθάσθησαν, ἐπίστησαν, ἐν φόνῳ μαχαίρης ἀπέθανον, περιήλθον ἐν μηλωταῖς, ἐν αἰγείοις δέρμασιν, ὑστερούμενοι, θλιβόμενοι, κακουχούμενοι, ὧν οὐκ ἦν ἄξιος ὁ κόσμος, ἐπὶ ἐρημίαις πλανώμενοι καὶ ὄρεσιν καὶ σπηλαίοις καὶ ταῖς ὄπαῖς τῆς γῆς. Καὶ οὗτοι πάντες μαρτυρηθέντες διὰ τῆς πίστεως οὐκ ἔκομίσαντο τὴν ἐπαγγελίαν, τοῦ θεοῦ περὶ ἡμῶν κρείττον τὶ προβλεψαμένου, ἵνα μὴ χωρὶς ἡμῶν τελειωθῶσιν.

*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
Hebrews. (11:9-10; 32-40)*

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Brethren, by faith Abraham sojourned in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God. And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets—who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were tempted, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, ill-treated—of whom the world was not worthy—wandering over deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

The Holy Gospel Reading according to St. Matthew (1:1-25) Sunday before Christmas

Βίβλος γενέσεως Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ υἱοῦ Δαυὶδ υἱοῦ Ἀβραάμ. Ἀβραάμ ἐγέννησεν τὸν Ἰσαὰκ, Ἰσαὰκ δὲ ἐγέννησεν τὸν Ἰακώβ, Ἰακώβ δὲ ἐγέννησεν τὸν Ἰούδαν καὶ τοὺς ἀδελφοὺς αὐτοῦ, Ἰούδας δὲ ἐγέννησεν τὸν Φάρες καὶ τὸν Ζάρα ἐκ τῆς Θαμάρ, Φάρες δὲ ἐγέννησεν τὸν Ἑσρώμ, Ἑσρώμ δὲ ἐγέννησεν τὸν Ἀράμ, Ἀράμ δὲ ἐγέννησεν τὸν Ἀμιναδάβ, Ἀμιναδάβ δὲ ἐγέννησεν τὸν Ναασσών, Ναασσών δὲ ἐγέννησεν τὸν Σαλμών, Σαλμών δὲ ἐγέννησεν τὸν Βοῶζ ἐκ τῆς Ραχάβ, Βοῶζ δὲ ἐγέννησεν τὸν Ἰωβὴδ ἐκ τῆς Ρούθ, Ἰωβὴδ δὲ ἐγέννησεν τὸν Ἰεσσαί, Ἰεσσαί δὲ ἐγέννησεν τὸν Δαυὶδ τὸν βασιλέα. Δαυὶδ δὲ ἐγέννησεν τὸν Σολομῶνα ἐκ τῆς τοῦ Οὐρίου, Σολομῶν δὲ ἐγέννησεν τὸν Ροβοάμ, Ροβοάμ δὲ ἐγέννησεν τὸν Ἀβιά, Ἀβιά δὲ ἐγέννησεν τὸν Ἀσάφ, Ἀσάφ δὲ ἐγέννησεν τὸν Ἰωσαφάτ, Ἰωσαφάτ δὲ ἐγέννησεν τὸν Ἰωράμ, Ἰωράμ δὲ ἐγέννησεν τὸν Ὀζιαν, Ὀζίας δὲ ἐγέννησεν τὸν Ἰωαθάμ, Ἰωαθάμ δὲ ἐγέννησεν τὸν Ἀχάζ, Ἀχάζ δὲ ἐγέννησεν τὸν Ἐζεκιάν, Ἐζεκιάν δὲ ἐγέννησεν τὸν Μανασσῆ, Μανασσῆ δὲ ἐγέννησεν τὸν Ἀμώς, Ἀμώς δὲ ἐγέννησεν τὸν Ἰωσίαν, Ἰωσίας δὲ ἐγέννησεν τὸν Ἰεχονίαν καὶ τοὺς ἀδελφοὺς αὐτοῦ ἐπὶ τῆς μετοικεσίας Βαβυλῶνος. Μετὰ δὲ τὴν μετοικεσίαν Βαβυλῶνος Ἰεχονίας ἐγέννησεν τὸν Σαλαθιήλ, Σαλαθιήλ δὲ ἐγέννησεν τὸν Ζοροβαβέλ, Ζοροβαβέλ δὲ ἐγέννησεν τὸν Ἀβιούδ, Ἀβιούδ δὲ ἐγέννησεν τὸν Ἐλιακίμ, Ἐλιακίμ δὲ ἐγέννησεν τὸν Ἀζῶρ, Ἀζῶρ δὲ ἐγέννησεν τὸν Σαδώκ, Σαδώκ δὲ ἐγέννησεν τὸν Ἀχίμ, Ἀχίμ δὲ ἐγέννησεν τὸν Ἐλιοῦδ, Ἐλιοῦδ δὲ ἐγέννησεν τὸν Ἐλεάζαρ, Ἐλεάζαρ δὲ ἐγέννησεν τὸν Ματθάν, Ματθάν δὲ ἐγέννησεν τὸν Ἰακώβ, Ἰακώβ δὲ ἐγέννησεν τὸν Ἰωσήφ τὸν ἄνδρα Μαρίας, ἐξ ἧς ἐγεννήθη Ἰησοῦς ὁ λεγόμενος Χριστός. Πᾶσαι οὖν αἱ γενεαὶ ἀπὸ Ἀβραάμ ἕως Δαυὶδ γενεαὶ δεκατέσσαρες, καὶ ἀπὸ Δαυὶδ ἕως τῆς μετοικεσίας Βαβυλῶνος γενεαὶ δεκατέσσαρες, καὶ ἀπὸ τῆς μετοικεσίας Βαβυλῶνος ἕως τοῦ Χριστοῦ γενεαὶ δεκατέσσαρες. Τοῦ δὲ Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ ἡ γένεσις οὕτως ἦν. Μνηστευθεῖσιν τῆς μητρὸς αὐτοῦ Μαρίας τῷ Ἰωσήφ, πρὶν ἢ συνελθεῖν αὐτοὺς εὐρέθη ἐν γαστρὶ ἔχουσα ἐκ πνεύματος ἁγίου. Ἰωσήφ δὲ ὁ ἄνθρωπος αὐτῆς, δίκαιος ὢν καὶ μὴ θέλων αὐτὴν δειγματῆσαι, ἐβουλήθη λάθρα ἀπολῦσαι αὐτήν. Ταῦτα δὲ αὐτοῦ ἐνθυμηθέντος ἰδοὺ ἄγγελος κυρίου κατ' ὄναρ ἐφάνη αὐτῷ λέγων· Ἰωσήφ υἱὸς Δαυὶδ, μὴ φοβηθῆς παραλαβεῖν Μαριάμ τὴν γυναῖκά σου, τὸ γὰρ ἐν αὐτῇ γεννηθὲν ἐκ πνεύματος ἁγίου ἐστὶν ἁγίου τέξεται δὲ υἱὸν καὶ καλέσεις τὸ ὄνομα αὐτοῦ Ἰησοῦν, αὐτὸς γὰρ σώσει τὸν λαὸν αὐτοῦ ἀπὸ τῶν ἁμαρτιῶν αὐτῶν. Τοῦτο δὲ ὅλον γέγονεν ἵνα πληρωθῆ τὸ ρηθὲν ὑπὸ κυρίου διὰ τοῦ προφήτου λέγοντος, Ἴδου ἡ παρθένος ἐν γαστρὶ ἔξει καὶ τέξεται υἱόν, καὶ καλέσουσιν τὸ ὄνομα αὐτοῦ Ἐμμανουήλ, ὃ ἐστὶν μεθερμηνεύμενον Μεθ' ἡμῶν ὁ Θεός. Διεγερθεὶς δὲ ὁ Ἰωσήφ ἀπὸ τοῦ ὕπνου ἐποίησεν ὡς προσέταξεν αὐτῷ ὁ ἄγγελος κυρίου καὶ παρέλαβε τὴν γυναῖκα αὐτοῦ καὶ οὐκ ἐγίνωσκεν αὐτήν ἕως οὗ ἔτεκεν υἱόν· καὶ ἐκάλεσεν τὸ ὄνομα αὐτοῦ Ἰησοῦν.

The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham. Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Ram, and Ram the father of Ammin'adab, and Ammin'adab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, and Salmon the father of Bo'az by Rahab, and Bo'az the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of David the king. And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uri'ah, and Solomon the father of Rehobo'am, and Rehobo'am the father of Abi'jah, and Abi'jah the father of Asa, and Asa the father of Jehosh'aphat, and Jehosh'aphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzzi'ah, and Uzzi'ah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezeki'ah, and Hezeki'ah the father of Manas'seh, and Manas'seh the father of Amos, and Amos the father of Josi'ah, and Josi'ah the father of Jechoni'ah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon. And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoni'ah was the father of Sheal'tiel, and Sheal'tiel the father of Zerub'babel, and Zerub'babel the father of Abi'ud, and Abi'ud the father of Eli'akim, and Eli'akim the father of Azor, and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eli'ud, and Eli'ud the father of Elea'zar, and Elea'zar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ. So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ fourteen generations. Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit; and her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit; she will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: "Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emman'uel" (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took his wife, but knew her not until she had borne a son; and he called his name Jesus.

HOLY CROSS

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 24, 2023

Ushers on Duty: Sarah Drakopoulos & Joanna Patronis

Video: David Zoumberis Altar Servers: All Adult/Youth Servers

Epistle Readers: Pete Tsamolias (Greek); Bryan Gordy (English)

Fellowship Host (Thank You!): Cheryl Schwartzkopf

PC Member On-Duty: Sarah Drakopoulos



Today our Holy Orthodox Church commemorates:

+ Sunday before the Nativity of the Lord

On the Sunday that occurs on or immediately after the eighteenth of this month, we celebrate all those who from ages past have been well-pleasing to God, beginning from Adam even unto Joseph the Betrothed of the Most Holy Theotokos, according to genealogy, as the Evangelist Luke hath recorded historically (Luke 3:23-38); we also commemorate the Prophets and Prophetesses, and especially the Prophet Daniel and the Holy Three Children.

+ The Holy Virgin Martyr Eugenia and the Holy Martyrs Basilia, Philip, Protas, and Hyacinth

This Martyr was the daughter of most distinguished and noble parents named Philip and Claudia. Philip, a Prefect of Rome, moved to Alexandria with his family. In Alexandria, Eugenia had the occasion to learn the Christian Faith, in particular when she encountered the Epistles of Saint Paul, the reading of which filled her with compunction and showed her clearly the vanity of the world. Secretly taking two of her servants, Protas and Hyacinth, she departed from Alexandria by night. Disguised as a man, she called herself Eugene while pretending to be a eunuch, and departed with her servants and took up the monastic life in a monastery of men. Her parents mourned for her, but could not find her. After Saint Eugenia had laboured for some time in the monastic life, a certain woman named Melanthia, thinking Eugenia to be a monk, conceived lust and constrained Eugenia to comply with her desire; when Eugenia refused, Melanthia slandered Eugenia to the Prefect as having done insult to her honour. Eugenia was brought before the Prefect, her own father Philip, and revealed to him both that she was innocent of the accusations, and that she was his own daughter. Through this, Philip became a Christian; he was afterwards beheaded at Alexandria. Eugenia was taken back to Rome with Protas and Hyacinth. All three of them ended their life in martyrdom in the years of Commodus, who reigned from 180 to 192.

+ Our Devout Father Nicholas the Monk (+802)

+ The Holy Martyr Achaikos and Our Devout Father Antiochos (+635)

Through the intercessions of Your Saints, O God, have

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 (Το φαιδρόν, Fourth Mode):

When the women disciples of the Lord heard the Angel joyously proclaim the resurrection, they cast aside the ancestral verdict, and boasting in glory they said to the Apostles, "Death has been despoiled! Christ God has risen, granting the great mercy to the world!" (Sung before and after the Small Entrance. Greek text found in large hymnal on pg. 110)

• Hymn of the Forefeast of the Nativity (Απευράφητο ποτέ, Fourth Mode):

As she carried in her womb * what she conceived without seed, * Mary went to Bethlehem * with elder Joseph to enroll, * for they were of the house and the lineage of David. * The time arrived for her * to give birth to her Child; * but then there was no place * in the inn for them. * Therefore the grotto served as a luxurious * royal palace for the Queen. * And Christ the Lord is born, to raise the image * which was formerly fallen.

• Hymn of the Fathers (Μεγάλα τα της πίστewος, Second Mode):

Magnificent are the accomplishments of faith! The holy Three Servants greatly rejoiced, as they stood in the fountain of fire, as if beside the still waters; and the Prophet Daniel appeared to be a shepherd of lions, as if they were sheep. At their entreaties, O Christ God, save our souls.

• 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 σημερον, 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 (12/24—Wine+Oil): John 20:1-10; Hebrews 11:9-10; 32-40; Matthew 1:1-25

Monday (12/25—Nativity of Christ—No Fasting): Matthew 1:18-25; Galatians 4:4-7; Matthew 2:1-12

Tuesday (12/26—Synaxis of the Theotokos—No Fasting): Hebrews 2:11-18; Matthew 2:13-23

Wednesday (12/27—St. Steven the First Martyr—No Fasting): Acts 6:8-15, 7:1-5, 47-60; Matthew 21:33-42

Thursday (12/28—No Fasting): Hebrews 10:35-39, 11:1-7; Luke 14:25-35

Friday (12/29—No Fasting): Hebrews 2:11-18; Matthew 2:13-23

Saturday (12/30—No Fasting): I Timothy 6:11-16; Matthew 12:15-21

Prayer Requests:

Fr. Symeon (mission priest supported by our parish), Panteleimon, Michael, 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, Kathye, Rinne

Prayers for those recently reposed:

John (+November 22), Panagiotis/Pete (+November 27), Marin (+November 27), Samuel/Bob (+December 7), Sophia (+December 7), Eftalia (+December 17)

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 of Kronstadt on the Nativity of our Lord, God, and Savior Jesus Christ: "And the Word became flesh!...in order to make us earthly beings into heavenly ones, in order to make sinners into saints; in order to raise us up from corruption into incorruption, from earth to heaven; from enslavement to sin and the devil – into the glorious freedom of children of God; from death – into immortality, in order to make us sons of God and to seat us together with Him upon the Throne as His

royal children. O, boundless compassion of God! O, inexpressible wisdom of God! O, great wonder, astounding not only the human mind, but the angelic [mind] as well!"

Upcoming Celebrations This Week

Name Days—Chronia Polla, Many Years!

December 24: Rebekah Bradford, Eugenia Zoe Jones

December 25: Christina Danforth, Violet Christina Danforth, Gloria Anastasia Dixon, Chrissy Holland, Cristina Lekas, Christine Nicholas, Christian Morris, Chrissy Zdrakas

Birthdays—Happy Birthday!

December 26: John Cacavias

December 27: Washington Morris

Anniversaries—Congratulations!

December 27: Kostas & Katerina Iakovidis

December 30: Demetri & Hannah Kostakis

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

Announcements:

*There will not be **Orthodoxy 101** class this **Wednesday or next Wednesday**. Classes will reconvene on Wednesday, January 10th after the New Year.

*As a reminder, the **Bookstore** is open on Wednesday afternoons from 3:00 to 5:00. However, the bookstore will not be open this coming week, December 27.

*Red Cross **Blood Drive** will be held on Tuesday, January 3rd at 3-7pm in the Parish House. See flyer in email to schedule your appointment today to give. Also, if you are able to open the house at 2pm for the American Red Cross and stay until 4:00pm, please contact Natalia for details.

*The **Spring Fling** will be held on March 9th from 11am-7pm. We are asking all Young Adults and Not-So-Young Adults to save this date on your calendar. More information to come.

*If you have not had a chance to sign up for a Sunday to host **Coffee Hour in 2024**, there are still several Sundays available. Please see Maria Bronisevsky on how to sign up if you are unsure.

* Please keep an eye on your email this coming week for details on how to schedule a **House Blessing** after we celebrate the Feast of Theophany on January 6!

Καλα Χριστούγεννα!
Merry Christmas!