



HOLY CROSS

GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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

Sunday, December 3, 2023

14th Sunday of Luke

The Holy Prophet Zephaniah

Eothinon/Orthros Gospel: Fourth (Luke 24:1-12)

Mode of the Week: First/Πρώτος

QR Codes (scan with smart phone for service texts)

Orthros



Divine Liturgy



Upcoming Schedule

Today, December 3

9:15am Orthros
 10:30am Divine Liturgy on the 14th Sunday of Luke
 Sunday School for the Youth following Holy Communion
 2-Year Memorial for Eugenia Ghigeanu at the end of the Liturgy
 Coffee Fellowship in the Parish House after the Liturgy
 Greek School (Youth)/Adult Bible Study

Tuesday, December 5

5:30pm Great Vespers for the Feast of St. Nicholas
 6:30pm Adult Study: Orthodoxy 101 in the Church Library

Wednesday, December 6

9:30am Orthros
 10:30am Divine Liturgy on the Feast Day of St. Nicholas
 6:30pm Choir Practice in the Church

Thursday, December 7

6:30pm Festival Wrap-Up Meeting in the Parish House

Saturday, December 9

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

Sunday, 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
 Greek School (Adult)/Youth Dance Practice

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
 12:45pm Greek School (Youth)/Adult Bible Study

Upcoming Epistle Readers: (12/10) Aleca Hortman, Charles Glotzbach; (12/17) George Saratsiots, Isabelle Saratsiots

Upcoming PC Member On-Duty: (12/10) Charles Glotzbach; (12/17) Sarah Drakopoulos; (12/24) Melanie Moyer

Upcoming Ushers: (12/5) Melanie M.; (12/6) OPEN; (12/9) David Z.; (12/10) Cleo B., Charles G.; (12/12) Norm + Eleni A.

Upcoming Video Operators: (12/6) Joanna P.; (12/10) Natalia S.; (12/12) Cristina L.; (12/17) Cristina L.

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 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!

Epistle Reading

Γένοιτο, Κύριε, τὸ ἔλεός σου ἐφ' ἡμᾶς,
καθάπερ ἠλπίσαμεν ἐπὶ σέ.

Στίχ. Ἀγαλλιᾶσθε, δίκαιοι, ἐν Κυρίῳ·
τοῖς εὐθέσι πρέπει αἴνεσις.

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Πρὸς Ἐφεσίους Ἐπιστολῆς Παύλου τὸ
ἀνάγνωσμα.

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Ἀδελφοί, ὡς τέκνα φωτὸς περιπατεῖτε [ὁ γὰρ καρπὸς τοῦ φωτὸς ἐν πάσῃ ἀγαθωσύνῃ καὶ δικαιοσύνῃ καὶ ἀληθείᾳ] δοκιμάζοντες τί ἐστὶν εὐάρεστον τῷ Κυρίῳ· καὶ μὴ συγκοινωνεῖτε τοῖς ἔργοις τοῖς ἀκάρποις τοῦ σκότους, μᾶλλον δὲ καὶ ἐλέγχετε, τὰ γὰρ κρυφῆ γινόμενα ὑπ' αὐτῶν αἰσχρὸν ἐστὶν καὶ λέγειν· τὰ δὲ πάντα ἐλεγχόμενα ὑπὸ τοῦ φωτὸς φανεροῦνται· πᾶν γὰρ τὸ φανερούμενον φῶς ἐστὶ. Διὸ λέγει· Ἐγειρε, ὁ καθεύδων, καὶ ἀνάστα ἐκ τῶν νεκρῶν, καὶ ἐπιφαύσει σοι ὁ Χριστός. Βλέπετε οὖν ἀκριβῶς πῶς περιπατεῖτε, μὴ ὡς ἄσοφοι ἀλλ' ὡς σοφοί, ἐξαγοραζόμενοι τὸν καιρὸν, ὅτι αἱ ἡμέραι πονηραὶ εἰσι. Διὰ τοῦτο μὴ γίνεσθε ἄφρονες, ἀλλὰ συνιέντες τί τὸ θέλημα τοῦ Κυρίου. Καὶ μὴ μεθύσκεσθε οἴνῳ, ἐν ᾧ ἐστὶν ἀσωτία, ἀλλὰ πληροῦσθε ἐν Πνεύματι, λαλοῦντες ἑαυτοῖς ψαλμοῖς καὶ ὕμνοις καὶ ᾠδαῖς πνευματικαῖς, ᾄδοντες καὶ ψάλλοντες τῇ καρδίᾳ ὑμῶν τῷ Κυρίῳ.

Let Your mercy, O Lord, be upon
us, as we hope in You.

Verse: Rejoice greatly in the Lord,
O righteous ones; praise is fitting
for the upright. (Ps. 32)

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The reading is from Paul's Letter to
the Ephesians. (5:8-19)

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Brethren, walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), and try to learn what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is a shame even to speak of the things that they do in secret; but when anything is exposed by the light it becomes visible, for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it is said, "Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give you light." Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with all your heart.

The Holy Gospel Reading according to St. Luke (18:35-43)

14th Sunday of Luke

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, ἐγένετο ἐν τῷ ἐγγίξειν τὸν Ἰησοῦν εἰς Ἰεριχὼ τυφλὸς τις ἐκάθητο παρὰ τὴν ὁδὸν προσαιτῶν. ἀκούσας δὲ ὄχλου διαπορευομένου ἐπυνθάνετο τί εἶη ταῦτα. ἀπήγγειλαν δὲ αὐτῷ ὅτι Ἰησοῦς ὁ Ναζωραῖος παρέρχεται. καὶ ἐβόησε λέγων· Ἰησοῦ, υἱὲ Δαυὶδ, ἐλέησόν με. καὶ οἱ προάγοντες ἐπετίμων αὐτῷ ἵνα σιωπήσῃ· αὐτὸς δὲ πολλῷ μᾶλλον ἔκραζεν· Υἱὲ Δαυὶδ, ἐλέησόν με. σταθεὶς δὲ ὁ Ἰησοῦς ἐκέλευσεν αὐτὸν ἀχθῆναι πρὸς αὐτόν. ἐγγίσαντος δὲ αὐτοῦ ἐπηρώτησεν αὐτόν λέγων· Τί σοι θέλεις ποιήσω; ὁ δὲ εἶπε· Κύριε, ἵνα ἀναβλέψω. καὶ ὁ Ἰησοῦς εἶπεν αὐτῷ· Ἀνάβλεψον· ἡ πίστις σου σέσωκέ σε. καὶ παραχρῆμα ἀνέβλεψε, καὶ ἠκολούθει αὐτῷ δοξάζων τὸν Θεόν· καὶ πᾶς ὁ λαὸς ἰδὼν ἔδωκεν αἶνον τῷ Θεῷ.

At that time, as Jesus drew near to Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging; and hearing a multitude going by, he inquired what this meant. They told him, "Jesus of Nazareth is passing by." And he cried, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" And those who were in front rebuked him, telling him to be silent; but he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" And Jesus stopped, and commanded him to be brought to him; and when he came near, he asked him, "What do you want me to do for you?" He said, "Lord, let me receive my sight." And Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; your faith has made you well." And immediately he received his sight and followed him, glorifying God; and all the people, when they saw it, gave praise to God.

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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 3, 2023

Ushers on Duty: Cristina Lekas, Jim Lekas

Video: Christina D.

Altar Servers: All Adult/Youth Servers

Epistle Readers: George Saratsiotis (Greek), Rene Esquivel (English)

Fellowship Host (Thank You!): Rodica Cazacu

PC Member On-Duty: John Apostolou



Today our Holy Orthodox Church commemorates:

- + The Holy Prophet Zephaniah (Sophonias) (600's BC)

This Prophet, who is ninth in order among the minor Prophets, was the son of Chusi (Cushi), from the tribe of Levi, or according to some, the great-grandson of King Hezekias. He prophesied in the years of Josias, who reigned in the years 641-610 before Christ. His book of prophecy is divided into three chapters. His name means "Yah has concealed."

- + The Holy Hieromartyr Theodore, Archbishop of Alexandria (+609)
- + Our Devout Father Theodoulos the Eparch (+440)
- + Our Devout Father John the Hesychast, Bishop of Cologne (+558)
- + The Holy Martyrs Agapios, Seleukos, and Mamas in Sofiana
- + Our Devout Father Theodoulos the Cypriot, Fool for Christ
- + The Holy Hieromartyr Gabriel, Patriarch of Constantinople (+1659)
- + The Holy New Martyr Angeles in Chios (+1813)
- + Our Devout Father Lucius of Britian, founder of the dioceses of London and Llandaff (+2nd Century)

At Coire, in Switzerland, St. Lucius, king of the Britons, who was the first of those kings who received the faith of Christ, in the time of Pope Eleutherius.

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 (Του λίθου σφραγισθέντος, First Mode):*

The stone having been sealed by the Pharisees and chief priests, * and Your all-immaculate body being guarded by soldiers, * You rose on the third day, O Lord and Savior, granting life unto the world. * Then the powers of the heavens cried out to You, O Giver of Life, and shouted, * "Glory to Your resurrection, O Christ! * Glory to Your eternal rule! * Glory to Your plan for saving us, only benevolent God!" (*Sung before and after the Small Entrance. Greek text found in large hymnal on pg. 98*)

- *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.

- *Kontakion of the Memorial Service (Μνήσθητι, Κύριε, Plagal 4th Mode):*

Remember, O Lord, as You are good, Your servants, and forgive every sin they have committed in this life. For no one is sinless except You, Who has power to grant rest to those who have fallen asleep.

- *The Kontakion of the Nativity of Christ (Η 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 (12/3—Fish, Wine, Oil): Luke 24:1-12; Ephesians 5:8-19
Monday (12/4—St. Barbara—Fish, Wine, Oil): Matthew 25:1-13; Galatians 3:23-29, 4:1-5; Mark 5:24-34
Tuesday (12/5—St. Sabbas—Fish, Wine, Oil): Luke 6:17-23; Galatians 5:22-26, 6:1-2; Matthew 11:27-30
Wednesday (12/6—St. Nicholas—Wine+Oil): John 10:1-9; Hebrews 13:17-21; Luke 6:17-23
Thursday (12/7—Fish, Wine, Oil): I Timothy 6:17-21; Luke 21:28-33
Friday (12/8—Strict Fast): II Timothy 1:1-2, 8-18; Luke 21:37-38, 22:1-8
Saturday (12/9—Conception of the Theotokos—Fish, Wine, Oil): Galatians 4:22-27, Luke 8:16-21

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, Samuel, 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

Prayers for those recently reposed:

Jackie (+October 21), John (+November 22), Pete (+November 27), Marin (+November 27)

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 Damascus, commemorated this week on December 4: "Wherefore, brethren, let us plant ourselves upon the rock of faith and the Tradition of the Church, removing not the landmarks set by our holy fathers, nor giving room to those who are anxious to introduce novelties and to undermine the structure of God's holy ecumenical and apostolic Church. For if everyone were allowed a free hand, little by little the entire Body of the Church would be destroyed."

Upcoming Celebrations This Week

Name Days—Chronia Polla, Many Years!

December 4: Erick Schwartzkopf
December 6: Nick Dermatas, Nicholas Poulos, Aaron Nicholas Vrahiotes
December 9: Diane Berkner, Anna Kallergis, Cheryl Stefanis

Birthdays—Happy Birthday!

December 3: Anna Kallergis
December 5: Cleo Bennette, Stacey Goss
December 6: George Stefanis, Steven Paul Syribeys, Gray Yates
December 7: Ray Vardy
December 8: Violet Christina Danforth, Lilly Anne Syribeys
December 9: Henry Gordy, Nicholas James Peterson, Tom Zdrakas

Anniversaries—Congratulations!

December 4: Paul and Alyssa Syribeys

(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. Please contact Presvytera Stacey for more information.

* **Orthodoxy 101** will take place this **Tuesday** evening at 6:00pm in the Church Library after the Great Vespers. The topic will be "Who are the Fathers of the Church?" 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 to Natalia Saratsiotis. Deadline is December 17th!

* **Festival:** Chairman follow-up meeting will be this Thursday at 6:30pm in the Parish House. For anyone that has suggestions for improvements to the Festival, please contact Natalia Saratsiotis.

* Save the Date—**Blessing of the Animals** will take place once again this year—Saturday, December 16 (the Feast of St. Modestos) at 3:00pm in the Church Courtyard!

* **Youth:** Nativity (Christmas) Pageant will be taking place on Sunday, December 17 at the end of the Divine Liturgy. More information coming soon!

* Please prayerfully consider your **2024 Stewardship Pledge**. When you fill out your trifold, please return it to the Church before the blessing of the pledges on December 10!