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
Mode of the Week: First/Πρώτος

QR Codes (scan with smart phone for service texts)

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, νίκης τοῖς Βασιλεῦσι κατὰ βαρβάρων δωρούμενος καὶ τὸ σὸν φυλάττων διὰ τοῦ Σταυροῦ σου πολίτευμα.

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
- Year Memorial for Eugenia Ghigeanu at the end of the Liturgy
- Coffee Fellowship in the Parish House after the Liturgy
12:45pm 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
12:45pm 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 Saratsiotis, Isabelle Saratsiotis

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

Upcoming Usurers:
(12/5) Melanie M.; (12/9) Sarah Drakopoulos; (12/10) David Z.; (12/10) Mason B., Charles G.; (12/12) Norma Eleni A.

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

Upcoming Fellowship Hosts:
(12/10) Maria McCluskey; (12/17) Helen Vardy; (12/24) Cheryl Schwartzkopf
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)

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)

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.
Today our Holy Orthodox Church commemorates:

- The Holy Prophet Zephaniah (Sophonias) (+600 BC)
- 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 (+1699)
- The Holy New Martyr Angeles in Chios (+1813)
- Our Devout Father Lucifer 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 Eulalius.

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 (Τον Χιλιαδον αφρασιευδορο, First Mode)
  The stone having been sealed by the Pharisees and chief priests, * and Your all-immortal body being guarded by soldiers, * You rose on the third day, O Lord and Savior, granting life unto the world. * Then guarded by soldiers, * You rose on the third day, O Lord and Savior, granting life unto the world. * You rose on the third day, O Lord and Savior, granting life unto the world. * Then guarded by soldiers, * You rose on the third day, O Lord and Savior, granting life unto the world. * You rose on the third day, O Lord and Savior, granting life unto the world.
- Hymn of the Holy Cross (Σωφρασθέντος, 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 (Μνήμην, Κύριε, Plagal 4# 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, O Only-begotten Son, Who has power to grant rest to those who have fallen asleep.
- The Kontakion of the Nativity of Christ (Ἡ Παρθένου σφραγισθέντος, Third Mode):
  On this day the Virgin Maid * goes to the grotto to give birth * to the pre-errestrial Word * in an ineffable manner. * Dance for joy, all the inhabited earth, on hearing * Glory, glory, unto the Holy and Apostolic Church. For Whom has power to grant rest to those who have fallen asleep.

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 and apostolic Church. For if everyone were allowed a free hand, little by little the entire Body of the Church would be destroyed."

Weekly Readings and Announcements:

This Week’s Daily Scripture Readings and Fasting Guidance:

Sunday (12/3) – Fish, Wine, Oil: Luke 24:11-12; Ephesians 5:8-10
Thursday (12/7 – Fish, Wine, Oil): I Timothy 6:17-21; Luke 21:28-33

Prayer Requests:

Pr. Syoneem (mission priest supported by our parish), Panteleimon, Michael, Ethalvah, Kassiani, Michael, Dimitrios, Georgia, Pavlos, Betty, Chris, Irene, Valerie, Dianna, Keith, Jeannine, Dawn, Kenneth, Samuel, Hermione, Emmanuel, Mary, Kay, Helen, Nikki, Mena, Austin, Kiley, Garrett, Alexandra, Maria, Laurie, Lindsay, Randy, Marina, Effie, Christy, Ashley, Foster, Peggy. Lists are found in large hymnal on pg. 98)

Prayers for those recently reposed:

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

Prayers for expecting mothers:

Hannah K., Julietta L., Murvah S.

Prayers for Military Personnel and Their Families:

Nancy G., Mark, Tom, Christine, John, Charles, Katie, Ron, Paul, Mark, Sam, Larry, Mark, John, Susan, Mike, Kevin, Nick, Bob, Tony, Bill, Dave, Jim, Jay, Scott, Mike, Bob, Mark, John, Charlie, Tim, Tim, Tim, Tim, Tim

Prayers for those recently retired:

George Saratsiotis (Greek), Rene Esquivel (English), John Apostolou (600’ Century)

Upcoming Celebrations This Week

Name Days – Chronia Polla, Many Years!
December 4: Erick Schwartzkopf
December 6: Nick Dermatas, Nicholas Poulos, Aaron Nicholas Vrhotiades
December 9: Diane Berkner, Anna Kallergis, Cheryl Stefanis

Birthdays – Happy Birthday!
December 3: Anna Kallergis
December 5: Cles Bennette, Stacey Goss
December 6: George Stefanis, Steven Paul Syribeys, Gary Yates
December 7: Ray Vardy
December 10: Stesilav Grace, Dorothy Vlassen, Lily Anne Syribeys
December 9: Henry Gordy, Nicholas James Peterson, Tom Zrakas
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:

· Philotheos: The Philotheos is collecting 2T-4T clothing, baby wash and lotion, jackets of all sizes, and stuffies for 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.

· Orthodoxo 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 selection 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 Natalie Sarrisiotis. Deadline is December 17th!

· Festival: Chairman follow-up meeting will be this Thursday at 6:30pm our of the Parish House. For anyone that has suggestions for improvements to the Festival, please contact Natalie Sarrisiotis.

· 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 2023 Stewardship Pledge. When you fill out your trifold, please return it to the Church before the blessing of the pledges on December 10!

Guidance, Prayer Requests, and Announcements