



HOLY CROSS

GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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

Sunday, December 31, 2023

Leave-taking of Christmas

Joseph the Betrothed, David the King, James/Iakovos

Eothinon/Orthros Gospel: Eighth (John 20:11-18)

Mode of the Week: Plagal of the First/Πλ. του Πρώτου

QR Codes (scan with smart phone for service texts)

Orthros



Divine Liturgy



Upcoming Schedule

Today, December 31

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

Monday, January 1

Happy New Year 2024!
 9:15am Orthros
 10:30am Divine Liturgy of St. Basil on the Feast of St. Basil the Great

Wednesday, January 3

3-7pm Red Cross Blood Drive in the Parish House

Friday, January 5

9:30am Royal Hours of Theophany
 5:00pm Vespers Liturgy on the Eve of Theophany and Blessing of the Waters

Saturday, January 6

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

Sunday, January 7

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

Wednesday, January 10

5:45pm Vespers
 6:30pm Adult Study Class: Orthodoxy 101 in the Library

Sunday, January 14

9:15am Orthros
 10:30am Divine Liturgy on the Leave-taking of the Theophany of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ
 40-Day Memorial for Bob Dunbar at the end of the Liturgy
 Coffee Fellowship in the Parish House
 12:45pm Greek School (Youth)/Adult Bible Study

Monday, January 15

Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday—OFFICE CLOSED

Wednesday, January 17

5:00pm 9th Hour and Divine Liturgy
 6:30pm Adult Study Class: Orthodoxy 101 in the Library

Upcoming Epistle Readers: (1/7) Aleca Hortman, Mike Cantrell; (1/14) George Saratsiotis, Richard Stewart
Upcoming PC Member On-Duty: (1/7) Gray Yates; (1/14) Maria McCluskey; (1/21) Assistant Treasurer
Upcoming Ushers: (1/1) Maria S.; (1/5am) Melanie M., (1/5pm) Maria S.; (1/6am & pm) Sarah D.; (1/7) Jim+Cristina
Upcoming Video Operators: (1/1) Joanna P.; (1/5pm) Christina D.; (1/6am) Joanna P.; (1/7) Natalia S.
Fellowship Hosts: (12/31) Antigone Michalakis; (1/7) Philoptochos; (1/14) Natalia Saratsiotis; (1/21) Cristina Lekas

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

Σῶσον, Κύριε, τὸν λαόν σου
καὶ εὐλόγησον τὴν
κληρονομίαν σου.

Στίχ. Πρὸς σέ, Κύριε,
κεκράζομαι, ὁ Θεός μου.

+++

Πρὸς Τιμόθεον Β' Ἐπιστολῆς
Παύλου τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα

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Τέκνον Τιμόθεε, νῆφε ἐν
πᾶσι, κακοπάθησον, ἔργον
ποίησον εὐαγγελιστοῦ, τὴν
διακονίαν σου
πληροφόρησον. Ἐγὼ γὰρ ἤδη
σπένδομαι, καὶ ὁ καιρὸς τῆς
ἐμῆς ἀναλύσεως ἐφέστηκε.
Τὸν ἀγῶνα τὸν καλὸν
ἠγώνισμαι, τὸν δρόμον
τετέλεκα, τὴν πίστιν
τετήρηκα· λοιπὸν ἀπόκειται
μοι ὁ τῆς δικαιοσύνης
στέφανος, ὃν ἀποδώσει μοι ὁ
Κύριος ἐν ἐκείνῃ τῇ ἡμέρᾳ, ὁ
δίκαιος κριτής, οὐ μόνον δὲ
ἐμοί, ἀλλὰ καὶ πᾶσι τοῖς
ἠγαπηκόσι τὴν ἐπιφάνειαν
αὐτοῦ.

*O Lord, save Your people,
and bless Your inheritance.*

*Verse: To You, O Lord, I
cry; O my God. (Psalm 27)*

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*The reading is from Paul's
Second Letter to Timothy.*

(4:5-8)

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Timothy, my son, always be
steady, endure suffering,
do the work of an
evangelist, fulfil your
ministry. For I am already
on the point of being
sacrificed; the time of my
departure has come. I have
fought the good fight, I
have finished the race, I
have kept the faith.
Henceforth there is laid up
for me the crown of
righteousness, which the
Lord, the righteous judge,
will award to me on that
Day, and not only to me but
also to all who have loved
his appearing.

The Holy Gospel Reading according to St. Mark (1:1-8)

Sunday before Theophany

Ἀρχὴ τοῦ εὐαγγελίου Ἰησοῦ
Χριστοῦ, υἱοῦ τοῦ Θεοῦ. Ὡς
γέγραπται ἐν τοῖς προφήταις, ἰδοὺ
ἐγὼ ἀποστέλλω τὸν ἄγγελόν μου
πρὸ προσώπου σου, ὃς
κατασκευάσει τὴν ὁδὸν σου
ἔμπροσθέν σου· φωνὴ βοῶντος ἐν
τῇ ἐρήμῳ, ἐτοιμάσατε τὴν ὁδὸν
Κυρίου, εὐθείας ποιεῖτε τὰς
τρίβους αὐτοῦ, ἐγένετο Ἰωάννης
βαπτίζων ἐν τῇ ἐρήμῳ καὶ
κηρύσσων βάπτισμα μετανοίας εἰς
ἄφεσιν ἁμαρτιῶν. Καὶ
ἐξεπορεύετο πρὸς αὐτὸν πᾶσα ἡ
Ἰουδαία χώρα καὶ οἱ
Ἱεροσολυμίται, καὶ ἐβαπτίζοντο
πάντες ἐν τῷ Ἰορδάνῃ ποταμῷ ὑπ'
αὐτοῦ ἐξομολογούμενοι τὰς
ἁμαρτίας αὐτῶν. Ἦν δὲ ὁ
Ἰωάννης ἐνδεδυμένος τρίχας
καμήλου καὶ ζώνην δερματίνην
περὶ τὴν ὀσφύν αὐτοῦ, καὶ ἐσθίων
ἀκρίδας καὶ μέλι ἄγριον. Καὶ
ἐκήρυσσε λέγων· ἔρχεται ὁ
ἰσχυρότερός μου ὀπίσω μου, οὗ
οὐκ εἰμι ἰκανὸς κύψας λῦσαι τὸν
ἱμάντα τῶν ὑποδημάτων αὐτοῦ·
ἐγὼ μὲν ἐβάπτισα ὑμᾶς ἐν ὕδατι,
αὐτὸς δὲ βαπτίσει ὑμᾶς ἐν
Πνεύματι Ἁγίῳ.

The beginning of the Gospel of
Jesus Christ, the Son of God.
As it is written in Isaiah the
prophet, 'Behold, I send my
messenger before your face,
who shall prepare your way;
the voice of one crying in the
wilderness: prepare the way of
the Lord, make his paths
straight.' John the baptizer
appeared in the wilderness,
preaching a baptism of
repentance for the forgiveness
of sins. And there went out to
him all the country of Judea,
and all the people of
Jerusalem; and they were
baptized by him in the river
Jordan, confessing their sins.
Now John was clothed with
camel's hair, and had a leather
girdle around his waist, and ate
locusts and wild honey. And he
preached, saying, "After me
comes he who is mightier than
I, the thong of whose sandals I
am not worthy to stoop down
and untie. I have baptized you
with water; but he will baptize
you with the Holy Spirit."

HOLY CROSS

GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

Rev. Fr. Theodore Ehmer

Προϊστάμενος/Presiding Priest

E-mail: frtheodore@holycrossga.org

Cell: 770.256.0290

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 31, 2023

Ushers on Duty: Erick + Cheryl Schwartzkopf

Video: Gray Y/David N Altar Servers: All Adult/Youth Servers

Epistle Readers: Aleca Hortman (Greek); Nadia Cazacu (English)

Fellowship Host (Thank You!): Antigone Michalakis

PC Member On-Duty: Natalia Saratsiotis



Today our Holy Orthodox Church commemorates:

+ Joseph the Betrothed of our Lady the Holy Theotokos; James/Iakovos, the Brother of the Lord; David the Prophet and King

On the Sunday that falls on or immediately after the twenty-sixth of this month, we make commemoration of Saints Joseph, the Betrothed of the Virgin; David, the Prophet and King; and James, the Brother of God. When there is no Sunday within this period, we celebrate this commemoration on the 26th.

Saint Joseph (whose name means "one who increases") was the son of Jacob, and the son-in-law - and hence, as it were, the son - of Eli (who was also called Eliakim or Joachim), who was the father of Mary the Virgin (Matt. 1:16; Luke 3:23). He was of the tribe of Judah, of the family of David, an inhabitant of Nazareth, a carpenter by Trade, and advanced in age when, by God's good will, he was betrothed to the Virgin, that he might minister to the great mystery of God's dispensation in the flesh by protecting her, providing for her, and being known as her husband so that she, being a virgin, would not suffer reproach when she was found to be with child. Joseph had been married before his betrothal to our Lady; they who are called Jesus' "brethren and sisters" (Matt. 13:55-56) are the children of Joseph by his first marriage. From Scripture, we know that Saint Joseph lived at least until the Twelfth year after the birth of Christ (Luke 2:41-52); according to the tradition of the Fathers, he reposed before the beginning of the public ministry of Christ.

+ Our Devout Mother Melania the Roman (+434)

+ The Martyr and Priest Zotikos (+340)

+ Our Devout Father Gelasios of Palestine

+ The Holy 10 Virgin Martyrs in Nikomedia (+305)

+ The Holy Martyr Olympiodora

+ Our Devout Father Gaios

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):

- Hymn of Christmas (H Ἐννῆσις σου, Fourth Mode):

Your nativity, O Christ our God, has caused the light of knowledge to rise upon the world. For therein the worshippers of the stars were by a star instructed to worship You, the Sun of Righteousness, and to know You as Orient from on high. Glory to You, O Lord. (Sung before the Small Entrance and after the Resurrectional Hymn, Greek text found in large hymnal on pg. 198)

- Weekly Resurrectional Hymn (Τὸν συνάναρχον Λόγον, Plagal of the First Mode):

As the Father and Spirit are unoriginate, * so the Word, who was born from the Virgin for us. * Let us praise Him, O believers, and let us worship Him. * For our salvation He was pleased * to be crucified in the flesh, * and to undergo death, * and to resurrect the dead, by His glorious resurrection. (Sung before and after the Small Entrance. Greek text found in large hymnal on pg. 114)

- Hymn of the Ancestors (Εὐαγγελίζων Ἰωσήφ, Second Mode):

Annunciate the miracles to David the ancestor of God, O Joseph. You saw the Virgin pregnant. You glorified with the shepherds. You worshipped with the Magi. And you were warned by an Angel. Entreat Christ God to save our souls.

- Hymn of the Holy Cross (Σῶσον 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 (H Παρθένος σήμερον, Third Mode):

On this day the Virgin gives * birth to the Super-essential. * To the Unapproachable, * earth is providing the grotto. * Angels sing and with the shepherds offer up glory. * Following a star the Magi are still proceeding. * He was born for our salvation, a newborn Child, the pre-eternal God. (Greek text found in large hymnal on pg. 244)

Guidance, Prayer Requests, and Announcements

This Week's Daily

Scripture Readings and Fasting Guidance:

Sunday (12/31—No Fasting): John 20:11-18;

II Timothy 4:5-8; Mark 1:1-8

Monday (1/1—St. Basil—No Fasting): John 10:1-9;

Colossians 2:8-12; Luke 2:20-21, 40-52

Tuesday (1/2—No Fasting): Hebrews 5:4-10; John 3:1-15

Wednesday (1/3—No Fasting): Acts 10:44-48, 11:1-10; John 1:18-28

Thursday (1/4—No Fasting): I Corinthians 4:9-16; John 1:18-28

Friday (1/5—Strict Fasting): I Corinthians 9:19-27; Luke 3:1-18

Saturday (1/6—Theophany—No Fasting): Mark 1:9-11; Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7; Matthew 3:13-17

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, 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. Basil the Great defending the truth of the Holy Spirit: "Through the Holy Spirit comes our restoration to paradise, our ascension into the kingdom of heaven, our return to the adoption of sons, our liberty to call God our Father, our being made partakers of the grace of Christ, our being called children of light, our sharing in eternal glory, and, in a word, our being brought into a state of all "fulness of blessing," both in this world and in the world to come, of all the good gifts that are in store for us, by promise hereof, through faith, beholding the

reflection of their grace as though they were already present, we await the full enjoyment."

Upcoming Celebrations This Week

Name Days—Chronia Polla, Many Years!

December 31: David-Lee Bradford, Melanie Moye
January 1: Bessie Andros, Basil Ehmer, Betty Maxwell, Carter Zoumberis

Birthdays—Happy Birthday!

December 31: Susan McCluskey
January 2: Demetri Kostakis
January 3: Lukas Esquivel, Cristina Lekas
January 4: Robert Ice, Alex Saratsiotis

Anniversaries—Congratulations!

January 3: Fr. Theodore & Presvytera Stacey Ehmer

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

Announcements:

*Next Sunday, January 7, Philtoptochos will be sponsoring the **Cutting of the Vasilopita**. All donations will go to Saint Basil Academy, the home for children in need. The Academy provides a loving Christian environment where resident children are nurtured to adulthood. Thank you in advance for your donation.

* Please see the associated email on how to schedule a **House Blessing** after we celebrate the Feast of Theophany this coming week on Saturday, January 6! Dates/times are arranged by area (Macon, W/R, etc.)

*There will not be **Orthodoxy 101** this **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!

*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.

*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.

Καλή Πρωτοχρονιά!
Happy New Year!