



# HOLY CROSS

## GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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[www.holycrossga.org](http://www.holycrossga.org) | Facebook: HolyCrossMaconGA

### Sunday, January 28, 2024

15<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Luke

St. Ephraim the Syrian

Eothinon/Orthros Gospel: First (Matthew 28:16-20)

Mode of the Week: First /Πρώτος

QR Codes (scan with smart phone for service texts)

Orthros



Divine Liturgy



### Upcoming Schedule

<i>Today, January 28</i>	9:15am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy on the 15th Sunday of Luke Sunday School for the Youth following Holy Communion Coffee Fellowship in the Parish House after the Liturgy 12:45pm Greek School (Youth)/Adult Bible Study 1:45pm Youth Clean-Up Service Project/Sports/Playground Day
<i>Tuesday, January 30</i>	9:30am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Three Hierarchs
<i>Wednesday, January 31</i>	5:30pm Vespers 6:30pm Adult Study Class: Orthodoxy 101 in the Library
<i>Thursday, February 1</i>	5:00pm Great Vespers for the Meeting of the Lord (Υπαπαντή)
<i>Friday, February 2</i>	9:30am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy on the Feast of the Meeting of the Lord in the Temple
<i>Saturday, February 3</i>	4:00pm Byzantine Chant Class 5:00pm Great Vespers
<i>Sunday, February 4</i>	9:15am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy on Godparents Sunday Sunday School for the Youth following Holy Communion Trisagion for Chuck Samuel Ray at the end of the Liturgy Coffee Fellowship in the Parish House after the Liturgy 12:45pm Greek School (Adult)
<i>Wednesday, February 7</i>	5:45pm Vespers for the Feast of St. Theodore the Commander and the Holy Prophet Zachariah 6:30pm Adult Study Class: Orthodoxy 101 in the Library
<i>Friday, February 9</i>	5:00pm Great Vespers and Divine Liturgy for the Feast of St. Haralambos
<i>Saturday, February 10</i>	4:00pm Byzantine Chant Class 5:00pm Great Vespers
<i>Sunday, February 11</i>	9:15am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy on the 16 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Matthew Sunday School for the Youth following Holy Communion Coffee Fellowship in the Parish House after the Liturgy 12:30pm Philoptochos Meeting in the Parish House 12:45pm Greek School (Youth)/Adult Bible Study
<i>Friday, February 16</i>	5:00pm Vespers for the Feast of St. Theodore the Recruit

**Upcoming Epistle Readers:** (2/4) Aleca Hortman, Diana Cazacu; (2/11) George Saratsiotis, Panos Drakopoulos  
**Upcoming PC Member On-Duty:** (2/4) Melanie Moye; (2/11) Gray Yates; (2/18) Natalia Saratsiotis  
**Upcoming Ushers:** (1/30) Eleni+Norm A; (1/31) Melanie M; (2/1) David Z; (2/2) Eleni+Norm A; (2/4) Cleo B, Sarah D  
**Upcoming Video Operators:** (1/30) Cristina L; (2/2) Joanna P; (2/4) Natalia S; (2/11) David Z; (2/18) Gray Y  
**Fellowship Hosts:** (2/4) Parish Council; (2/11) Cleo Bennette; (2/18) Despina Passias; (2/25) Eleni Adams

### 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

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

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

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Πρὸς Τιμόθεον Α' Ἐπιστολῆς Παύλου τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα.

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Τέκνον Τιμόθεε, πιστὸς ὁ λόγος καὶ πάσης ἀποδοχῆς ἄξιος· εἰς τοῦτο γὰρ καὶ κοπιῶμεν καὶ ὀνειδιζόμεθα, ὅτι ἠλπίκαμεν ἐπὶ Θεῷ ζῶντι, ὃς ἐστὶ Σωτὴρ πάντων ἀνθρώπων, μάλιστα πιστῶν. Παράγγελλε ταῦτα καὶ δίδασκε. Μηδεὶς σου τῆς νεότητος καταφρονεῖτω, ἀλλὰ τύπος γίνου τῶν πιστῶν ἐν λόγῳ, ἐν ἀναστροφῇ, ἐν ἀγάπῃ, ἐν πνεύματι, ἐν πίστει, ἐν ἀγνείᾳ. Ἔως ἔρχομαι πρόσεχε τῇ ἀναγνώσει, τῇ παρακλήσει, τῇ διδασκαλίᾳ. Μὴ ἀμέλει τοῦ ἐν σοὶ χαρίσματος, ὃ ἐδόθη σοὶ διὰ προφητείας μετὰ ἐπιθέσεως τῶν χειρῶν τοῦ πρεσβυτερίου. Ταῦτα μελέτα, ἐν τούτοις ἴσθι, ἵνα σου ἡ προκοπὴ φανερὰ ᾖ ἐν πᾶσιν.

*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.*

*(Psalm 32)*

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*The reading is from Paul's First Letter to Timothy. (4:9-15)*

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Timothy, my son, the saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance. For to this end we toil and strive, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all men, especially of those who believe. Command and teach these things. Let no one despise your youth, but set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. Till I come, attend to the public reading of scripture, to preaching, to teaching. Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophetic utterance when the council of elders laid their hands upon you. Practice these duties, devote yourself to them, so that all may see your progress.

## The Holy Gospel Reading according to St. Luke (19:1-10)

15<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Luke

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, διήρχετο ὁ Ἰησοῦς τὴν Ἱεριχώ· καὶ ἰδοὺ ἀνὴρ ὀνόματι καλούμενος Ζακχαῖος, καὶ αὐτὸς ἦν ἀρχιτελώνης, καὶ οὗτος ἦν πλούσιος, καὶ ἐζήτει ἰδεῖν τὸν Ἰησοῦν τίς ἐστὶ, καὶ οὐκ ἠδύνατο ἀπὸ τοῦ ὄχλου, ὅτι τῇ ἡλικίᾳ μικρὸς ἦν. καὶ προδραμῶν ἔμπροσθεν ἀνέβη ἐπὶ συκομορέαν, ἵνα ἴδῃ αὐτόν, ὅτι δι' ἐκείνης ἡμελλε διέρχεσθαι. καὶ ὡς ἦλθεν ἐπὶ τὸν τόπον, ἀναβλέψας ὁ Ἰησοῦς εἶδεν αὐτόν καὶ εἶπεν πρὸς αὐτόν· Ζακχαῖε, σπεύσας κατάβηθι· σήμερον γὰρ ἐν τῷ οἴκῳ σου δεῖ με μέναι. καὶ σπεύσας κατέβη, καὶ ὑπεδέξατο αὐτόν χαίρων. καὶ ἰδόντες πάντες διεγόγγυζον λέγοντες ὅτι παρὰ ἀμαρτωλῶ ἀνδρὶ εἰσῆλθε καταλῦσαι. σταθεὶς δὲ Ζακχαῖος εἶπε πρὸς τὸν Κύριον· Ἴδου τὰ ἡμίση τῶν ὑπαρχόντων μου, Κύριε, δίδωμι τοῖς πτωχοῖς, καὶ εἴ τινός τι ἐσυκοφάντησα, ἀποδίδωμι τετραπλοῦν. εἶπε δὲ πρὸς αὐτόν ὁ Ἰησοῦς ὅτι σήμερον σωτηρία τῷ οἴκῳ τούτῳ ἐγένετο, καθότι καὶ αὐτὸς υἱὸς Ἀβραάμ ἐστίν· ἦλθε γὰρ ὁ υἱὸς τοῦ ἀνθρώπου ζητῆσαι καὶ σῶσαι τὸ ἀπολωλός.

At that time, Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. And there was a man named Zacchaios; he was a chief collector, and rich. And he sought to see who Jesus was, but could not, on account of the crowd, because he was small of stature. So he ran on ahead and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him, for he was to pass that way. And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaios, make haste and come down; for I must stay at your house today." So he made haste and came down, and received him joyfully. And when they saw it they all murmured, "He has gone in to be the guest of a man who is a sinner." And Zacchaios stood and said to the Lord, "Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have defrauded any one of anything, I restore it fourfold." And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, since he also is a son of Abraham. For the Son of man came to seek and to save the lost."

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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 January 28, 2024

**Ushers on Duty:** Cheryl and Erick Schwartzkopf

**Video:** Cristina Lekas **Altar Servers:** All Adult/Youth Servers

**Epistle Readers:** Kostas Iakovidis (Greek); Charles Glotzbach (English)

**Fellowship Host (Thank You!):** Danai Esquivel

**PC Member On-Duty:** Sarah Drakopoulos



### Today our Holy Orthodox Church commemorates:

+ Our Devout Father Ephraim the Syrian (+373)

*Saint Ephraim was born in Nisibis of Mesopotamia some time about the year 306, and in his youth was the disciple of Saint James, Bishop of Nisibis. Ephraim lived in Nisibis, practicing a severe ascetical life and increasing in holiness, until 363, the year in which Julian the Apostate was slain in his war against the Persians, and his successor Jovian surrendered Nisibis to them. Ephraim then made his dwelling in Edessa, where he found many heresies to do battle with. He waged an especial war against Bardaisan; this gnostic had written many hymns propagating his errors, which by their sweet melodies became popular and enticed souls away from the truth. Saint Ephraim, having received from God a singular gift of eloquence, turned Bardaisan's own weapon against him, and wrote a multitude of hymns to be chanted by choirs of women, which set forth the true doctrines, refuted heretical error, and praised the contests of the Martyrs. Of the multitude of sermons, commentaries, and hymns that Saint Ephraim wrote, many were translated into Greek in his own lifetime. Sozomen says that Ephraim "Surpassed the most approved writers of Greece," observing that the Greek writings, when translated into other tongues, lose most of their original beauty, but Ephraim's works "are no less admired when read in Greek than when read in Syriac" (Ecl. Hist., Book 111, 16). Saint Ephraim was ordained deacon, some say by Saint Basil the Great, whom Sozomen said "was a great admirer of Ephraim, and was astonished at his erudition." Saint Ephraim was the first to make the poetic expression of hymnody and song a vehicle of Orthodox theological teachings, constituting it an integral part of the Church's worship; he may rightly be called the first and greatest hymnographer of the Church, who set the pattern for those who followed him, especially Saint Romanos the Melodist. Because of this he is called the "Harp of the Holy Spirit." Jerome says that his writings were read in some churches after the reading of the Scriptures, and adds that once he read a Greek translation of one of Ephraim's works, "and recognized, even in translation, the incisive power of his lofty genius." Saint Ephraim reposed in peace in 373.*

+ Our Devout Father Isaac the Syrian (+7<sup>th</sup> Century)

+ Our Devout Father Iakovos the Ascetic (+4<sup>th</sup> c.)

+ Our Devout Mother Grace (Χάρις)

*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 St. Ephrem (Ταῖς τῶν δακρῶν σου, Plagal of the Fourth Mode):*

With the rivers of your tears you made the barren desert bloom; and with your sighs from deep within, you made your labors bear their fruits a hundredfold; and you became a star, illuminating the world by your miracles, O Ephrem, our devout father. Intercede with Christ our God, for the salvation of 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.

- *The Kontakion of the Meeting of the Lord (Ὁ μῆτραν, First Mode):*

You sanctified the womb of the Virgin by Your birth, and by Your presentation You blessed the hands of Symeon, when You came, and You saved us, O Christ our God. Now we pray You give peace to Your world at war, and let love for Your people prevail in all, O only benevolent Lord. (Greek text found in large hymnal on pg. 250)

## Guidance, Prayer Requests, and Announcements

### This Week's Daily

**Scripture Readings and Fasting Guidance:**

**Sunday (1/28—No Fasting):** Matthew 28:16-20; I Timothy 4:9-15; Luke 19:1-10

**Monday (1/29—No Fasting):** Hebrews 10:32-38; Mark 9:33-41

**Tuesday (1/30—Three Hierarchs—No Fasting):** John 10:9-16; Hebrews 13:7-16; Matthew 5:14-19

**Wednesday (1/31—Strict Fast):** I Corinthians 12:27-31, 13:1-8; Matthew 10:1, 5-8

**Thursday (2/1—No Fasting):** Romans 8:28-39; Luke 10:19-21

**Friday (2/2—Meeting of the Lord—Fish, Wine+Oil):** Luke 2:25-32; Hebrews 7:7-17; Luke 2:22-40

**Saturday (2/3—No Fasting):** Hebrews 9:11-14; Luke 2:25-38

### Prayer Requests:

Fr. Symeon (mission priest supported by our parish), Panteleimon, Michael, Kassiani, Michael, Dimitrios, Georgia, Pavlos, Maria, Betty, 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:

#### Prayers for expecting mothers:

Julie G., 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:

A Prayer of Repentance written by **St. Isaac the Syrian**, commemorated today: "At the door of Your compassion do I knock, Lord; send aid to my scattered impulses which are intoxicated with the multitude of the passions and the power of darkness. You can see my sores hidden within me: stir up contrition—though not corresponding to the weight of my sins, for if I receive full awareness of the extent of my sins, Lord, my soul would be consumed by the bitter pain from them. Assist my feeble stirrings on the path to true repentance, and may I find alleviation from the vehemence of sins through the contrition that comes of Your gift, for without the power of Your grace I am quite unable to enter within myself, become aware of my stains, and so, at the sight of them be able to be still from great distraction."

### Upcoming Celebrations This Week

**Name Days—Chronia Polla, Many Years!**  
None in the Records

#### **Birthdays—Happy Birthday!**

January 31: Ben George Davis  
February 3: Sean Morris

#### **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:

\*If you are interested in a house blessing and did not have the opportunity to sign up online, please contact Fr. Theodore directly at frtheodore@holycrossga.org.

\* Today after the Divine Liturgy, there will be a **Youth-sponsored Luncheon**. The goal is to raise money for youth costumes for the Greek School performance being held on March 24th as well as future festivals/Greek Dance/school events to come.

\* **YOUTH:** Clean-up Service Project and Sports/Playground Day at Tattnall Park directly after Greek School today! Rock climbing coming in February, more info to come!

\* **Philoptochos:** There will be a general meeting that will take place after the Divine Liturgy on Sunday, February 11, please plan on being present if you are a member of Philoptochos (or would like to be!)

\***Orthodoxy 101** will take place this **Wednesday** evening at 6:30pm in the Church Library after the Great Vespers. The topic will be what the Orthodox Church believes about The Holy Scriptures/The Bible. 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. The Church is also open for lighting candles/prayer at the same time.

\*The **Spring Fling** will be held on Saturday, 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. Also, the dates for the **17th Annual Central Georgia Greek Festival** have been set: October 25-27, 2024. Please save this date!

\* **Not-So-Young-Adults:** please save the date for the upcoming event on Saturday, February 24: the Cantrell Center 5k.

\* **Greek Dancing** for the youth and young adults will resume on Sunday, February 25th and will take place once a month. As we get closer to the festival, we will kick it in to high gear and add more practice dates. Please be on the look out for a sign up in the coming weeks!