



HOLY CROSS

GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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

Sunday, January 7, 2024

Synaxis of St. John the Baptist

Continuation of the Feast of Theophany

Eothinon/Orthros Gospel: Nineth (John 20:19-31)

Mode of the Week: Plagal of the Second/Πλ. του Δευτέρου

QR Codes (scan with smart phone for service texts)

Orthros



Divine Liturgy



Upcoming Schedule

Today, January 7

9:15am Orthros
 10:30am Divine Liturgy on the Sunday after Theophany and the Synaxis of St. John the Baptist
 Sunday School for the Youth following Holy Communion
 Coffee Fellowship in the Parish House with the Cutting of the Vasilopita sponsored by Philoptochos
 12:45pm Greek School (Adult)

Wednesday, January 10

5:30pm Great Vespers
 6:30pm Choir Practice in the Church
 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
 Sunday School for the Youth following Holy Communion
 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 on the Feast of St. Anthony the Great
 6:30pm Adult Study Class: Orthodoxy 101 in the Library

Saturday, January 20

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

Sunday, January 21

9:15am Orthros
 10:30am Divine Liturgy on the 12th Sunday of Luke
 Sunday School for the Youth following Holy Communion
 40-Day Memorial for Eve McElrath at the end of the Liturgy
 Blessing of the New Parish Council
 Coffee Fellowship in the Parish House
 12:45pm Greek School (Adult)
 1:00pm Parish Council Meeting

Wednesday, January 24

5:30pm Great Vespers for the Feast of St. Gregory the Theologian
 6:30pm Adult Study Class: Orthodoxy 101 in the Library

Saturday, January 27

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

Sunday, January 28

9:15am Orthros
 10:30am Divine Liturgy on the 15th Sunday of Luke
 Sunday School for the Youth following Holy Communion
 Fellowship, Youth Greek School, Adult Bible Study after Liturgy

Upcoming Epistle Readers: (1/14) George Saratsiotis, Richard Stewart; (1/21) Pete Tsamolias / Cheryl Schwartzkopf

Upcoming PC Member On-Duty: (1/14) Maria McCluskey; (1/21) Assistant Treasurer; (1/28) Secretary

Upcoming Ushers: (1/10) Charles G; (1/14) Cleo B, Tassie C; (1/17) Cristina L; (1/20) Maria S; (1/21) Charles G, Sarah

Upcoming Video Operators: (1/14) David Z; (1/21) Gray Y, David N; (1/28) Cristina L; (1/30) Cristina L

Fellowship Hosts: (1/14) Natalia Saratsiotis; (1/21) Cristina Lekas; (1/28) Danai Esquivel; (2/4) Parish Council

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

*Εὐφρανθήσεται
δίκαιος ἐν Κυρίῳ.*

*Στίχ. Εἰσάκουσον, ὁ Θεός,
τῆς φωνῆς μου.*

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*Πράξεων τῶν Ἀποστόλων τὸ
ἀνάγνωσμα.*

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Ἐν ταῖς ἡμέραις ἐκείναις, ἐγένετο ἐν τῷ τὸν Ἀπολλὼ εἶναι ἐν Κορίνθῳ Παῦλον διελθόντα τὰ ἀνωτερικὰ μέρη ἐλθεῖν εἰς Ἔφεσον· καὶ εὐρῶν μαθητάς τινας εἶπε πρὸς αὐτούς· εἰ Πνεῦμα Ἅγιον ἐλάβετε πιστεύσαντες; οἱ δὲ εἶπον πρὸς αὐτόν· ἀλλ' οὐδὲ εἰ Πνεῦμα Ἅγιόν ἐστιν ἠκούσαμεν. Εἶπέ τε πρὸς αὐτούς· εἰς τί οὖν ἐβαπτίσθητε; οἱ δὲ εἶπον· εἰς τὸ Ἰωάννου βάπτισμα. Εἶπε δὲ Παῦλος· Ἰωάννης μὲν ἐβάπτισε βάπτισμα μετανοίας, τῷ λαῷ λέγων εἰς τὸν ἐρχόμενον μετ' αὐτόν ἵνα πιστεύσωσι, τοῦτ' ἔστιν εἰς τὸν Ἰησοῦν Χριστόν. Ἀκούσαντες δὲ ἐβαπτίσθησαν εἰς τὸ ὄνομα τοῦ Κυρίου Ἰησοῦ. Καὶ ἐπιθέντος αὐτοῖς τοῦ Παύλου τὰς χεῖρας ἦλθε τὸ Πνεῦμα τὸ Ἅγιον ἐπ' αὐτούς, ἐλάλουν τε γλώσσαις καὶ προεφήτευον. Ἦσαν δὲ οἱ πάντες ἄνδρες ὡσεὶ δεκαδύο. Εἰσελθὼν δὲ εἰς τὴν συναγωγὴν ἐπαρρησιάζετο ἐπι μῆνας τρεῖς διαλεγόμενος, καὶ πείθων τὰ περὶ τῆς βασιλείας τοῦ Θεοῦ.

*The righteous man shall
be glad in the Lord.*

*Verse: Hear my voice,
O God. (Psalm 63)*

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*The reading is from the Acts of the
Apostles. (19:1-8)*

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In those days, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul passed through the upper country and came to Ephesus. There he found some disciples. And he said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" And they said, "No, we have never even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." And he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They said, "Into John's baptism." And Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, Jesus." On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Spirit came on them; and they spoke with tongues and prophesied. There were about twelve of them in all. And he entered the synagogue and for three months spoke boldly, arguing and pleading about the kingdom of God.

The Holy Gospel Reading according to St. John (1:29-34)

Synaxis of St. John the Baptist

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, βλέπει ὁ Ἰωάννης τὸν Ἰησοῦν ἐρχόμενον πρὸς αὐτόν καὶ λέγει· Ἴδε ὁ ἀμνὸς τοῦ Θεοῦ ὁ αἴρων τὴν ἁμαρτίαν τοῦ κόσμου. οὗτός ἐστι περὶ οὗ ἐγὼ εἶπον· ὀπίσω μου ἔρχεται ἀνὴρ ὃς ἔμπροσθέν μου γέγονεν, ὅτι πρῶτός μου ἦν. κἀγὼ οὐκ ᾔδειν αὐτόν, ἀλλ' ἵνα φανερωθῇ τῷ Ἰσραήλ, διὰ τοῦτο ἦλθον ἐγὼ ἐν τῷ ὕδατι βαπτίζων. καὶ ἐμαρτύρησεν Ἰωάννης λέγων ὅτι τεθέαμαι τὸ Πνεῦμα καταβαῖνον ὡς περιστερὰν ἐξ οὐρανοῦ, καὶ ἔμεινεν ἐπ' αὐτόν. κἀγὼ οὐκ ᾔδειν αὐτόν, ἀλλ' ὁ πέμψας με βαπτίζειν ἐν ὕδατι, ἐκεῖνός μοι εἶπεν· ἐφ' ὃν ἂν ἴδῃς τὸ Πνεῦμα καταβαῖνον καὶ μένον ἐπ' αὐτόν, οὗτός ἐστιν ὁ βαπτίζων ἐν Πνεύματι Ἁγίῳ. κἀγὼ ἐώρακα καὶ μεμαρτύρηκα ὅτι οὗτός ἐστιν ὁ υἱὸς τοῦ Θεοῦ.

At that time, John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks before me, for he was before me.' I myself did not know him; but for this I came baptizing with water, that he might be revealed to Israel." And John bore witness, "I saw the Spirit descend as a dove from heaven, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him; but he who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God."

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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 January 7, 2024

Ushers on Duty: Jim & Cristina Lekas

Video: Natalia Saratsiotis Altar Servers: All Adult/Youth Servers

Epistle Readers: Aleca Hortman (Greek); Mike Cantrell (English)

Fellowship Host (Thank You!): Philoptochos

PC Member On-Duty: Gray Yates



Today our Holy Orthodox Church commemorates:

+ Synaxis in honor of the Holy and Glorious Prophet, Forerunner, and Baptist John

In the Orthodox Church it is customary, on the day following the Great Feasts of the Lord and the Mother of God, to remember those saints who participated directly in the sacred event. So, on the day following the Theophany of the Lord, the Church honors the one who participated directly in the Baptism of Christ, placing his own hand upon the head of the Savior.

From the Orthros service in honor of St. John the Baptist: You emerged from a barren woman's labor as an Angel, O Baptist, and you dwelt in the wilderness from the time you were in swaddling clothes. You were shown to be the seal of the Prophets all; for you were counted worthy to baptize in the Jordan Him whom they beheld in various ways and proclaimed enigmatically. You heard the Father's voice from heaven bearing witness to His Sonship. And you saw the Spirit in the form of a dove showing that the voice was directed towards the One being baptized. And you, who are superior to all the Prophets, never cease interceding on our behalf, as we loyally observe your memorial.

+ The Holy Martyr Romanos of Lacedaemonia (+1695)

+ The Holy New Martyr Athanasios in Smyrna (+1700)

He was a poor and simple man, but a convinced Christian. One day he entered into a religious dispute with a Turk. The Turk was educated and adroit with words, but Athanasios defended the Christian faith and argued its superiority over Islam. Finally, they parted. On the next day, Athanasios was summoned to trial and met the Turk as his accuser. The judge called on Athanasios to repudiate Orthodox Christianity and accept Islam, as he had said that he would die before denying Christianity. For this he was condemned to death and beheaded in the year 1700.

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 Theophany (Ev Ιορδάνη, First Mode):*

As You were baptized in the Jordan, O Lord, then the worship of the Trinity became manifest, for the voice of the Father bore witness to You, naming You the Beloved Son; and the Spirit, in the form of a dove, confirmed the certainty of the word. O Christ God, who appeared and illumined the world, glory to You. (Sung before the Small Entrance and after the Resurrectional Hymn, Greek text found in large hymnal on pg. 208)

• *Weekly Resurrectional Hymn (Αγγελικαί δυνάμεις, Plagal of the Second Mode):*

When the angelic powers appeared at Your tomb, the soldiers guarding it feared and became as dead. And standing by the sepulcher was Mary, who was seeking Your immaculate body. Unassailed by Hades, You divested it of spoils. Then You met the Virgin. You granted life. O Lord, risen from the dead, glory to You! (Sung before and after the Small Entrance. Greek text found in large hymnal on pg. 118)

• *Hymn of St. John the Baptist (Μνήμη Δικαίου, Second Mode):*

The memory of the just is observed with hymns of praise; for you suffices the testimony of the Lord, O Forerunner. You have proved to be truly more venerable than the Prophets, since you were granted to baptize in the river the One whom they proclaimed. Therefore, when for the truth you had contested, rejoicing, to those in Hades you preached the Gospel, that God was manifested in the flesh, and takes away the sin of the world, and grants to us the great mercy.

• *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 (Επεφάνης σήμερα, Third Mode):*

You appeared today to us * on earth, O Master, * and Your light was signed on us * who cry aloud to You and say * with understanding, O Christ our God: You came and shone forth, O Light unapproachable. (Greek text found in large hymnal on pg. 248)

Guidance, Prayer Requests, and Announcements

This Week's Daily

Scripture Readings and Fasting Guidance:

Sunday (1/7—Synaxis of St. John the Baptist—No Fasting): John 20:19-31; Acts 19:1-8; John 1:29-34

Monday (1/8—No Fasting): Romans 6:3-11; John 3:22-33

Tuesday (1/9—No Fasting): II Timothy 2:1-10; Mark 1:9-15

Wednesday (1/10—Strict Fasting): Ephesians 4:7-13; Luke 3:19-22

Thursday (1/11—No Fasting): Luke 6:17-23; Hebrews 13:7-16; Luke 4:1-15

Friday (1/12—Strict Fasting): Acts 18:22-28; John 10:39-42

Saturday (1/13—No Fasting): Ephesians 6:10-17; Matthew 4:1-11

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:

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. Cyril of Jerusalem in honor of St. John the Baptist, commemorated in the Church today: "They had beheld with admiration the incomparable beauty of John's mode of life: the splendor of his conduct; the unparalleled and surpassing excellence of his piety. For so great and admirable was he, that even the Jewish populace began to conjecture whether he were not himself the Christ, Whom the law had described to them in shadows, and the holy prophets had before proclaimed. Inasmuch therefore as some ventured on this conjecture, he at once cuts away their surmise, declining as a servant the honors due to the Master, and transferring the glory to Him Who

transcends all, even to Christ. For he knew that He is faithful unto those that serve Him. And what he acknowledges is in very deed the truth: for between God and man the distance is immeasurable. "Ye yourselves, there, he says, bear me witness that I said I am not the Christ, but that I am sent before Him." But where shall we find the holy Baptist thus speaking? In the Gospel of John, who has thus spoken concerning him; "And this is the testimony of John when the scribes and Pharisees at Jerusalem sent to ask him whether he were the Christ. And he confessed, and denied not, and said, that I am not the Christ, but am he that is sent before Him. Great therefore and admirable in very deed is the forerunner, who was the dawning before the Savior's meridian splendor, the precursor of the spiritual daylight, beautiful as the morning star, and called of God the Father a torch."

Upcoming Celebrations This Week

Name Days—Chronia Polla, Many Years!

January 7: John Apostolou, John Cacavias, Bryan John Gordy, Sean Morris, John Santon, John Staurulakis

Birthdays—Happy Birthday!

January 8: Holly Economopoulos

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:

*Please see the email that was sent on how to schedule a **House Blessing**. Dates/times are arranged by area (Macon, W/R, etc.) If you need help, please contact Fr. Theodore.

***Orthodoxy 101** will take place this **Wednesday** evening at 6:30pm in the Church Library after Vespers. The topic will be *Eschatology. What has been revealed to us about life after death? What is the role of the Church therein?* 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 **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. Also, the dates for the **17th Annual Central Georgia Greek Festival** have been set: October 25-27, 2024. Please save this date!

*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.

* **Choir Members:** Choir Practice, this Wednesday, January 10 in the Church at 6:30pm!

* **Not-So-Young-Adults:** please save the dates for upcoming events on Sunday, Jan 14 (hike after Church) and Saturday, Feb 24 (Cantreel 5k).