



HOLY CROSS

GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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

Sunday, February 25, 2024

Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee

St. Tarasios, Archbishop of Constantinople

Eothinon/Orthros Gospel: Fifth (Luke 24:12-35)

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, February 25

9:15am Orthros
 10:30am Divine Liturgy on the Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee (beginning of the Triodion)
 Sunday School for the Youth following Holy Communion
 Three Year Memorial Service for Sophia Tsamolias at the end of the Liturgy
 Coffee Fellowship in the Parish House after the Liturgy
 12:15pm Altar Servers Meeting in the Church
 12:45pm Youth Greek School / Adult Bible Study
 2:00pm Youth Outing (Macon Rocks)

Wednesday, February 28

4:45pm Vespers
 5:30pm Adult Study Class: Orthodoxy 101 in the Library/Zoom

Sunday, March 3

9:15am Orthros
 10:30am Divine Liturgy on the Sunday of the Prodigal Son
 Coffee Fellowship in the Parish House after the Liturgy
 12:45pm Adult Greek School/Youth and Young Adult Dance Practice

Saturday, March 9

8:30am Divine Liturgy and Memorial Service for the 1st Saturday of the Souls
 11:00am Greek Spring Fling (until 7:00pm)

Sunday, March 10

9:15am Orthros
 10:30am Divine Liturgy on Judgement Sunday (Meatfare)
 Sunday School for the Youth following Holy Communion
 Coffee Fellowship in the Parish House after Liturgy
 12:30pm General Assembly in the Parish House
 12:30pm Handmaidens Meeting in the Church

Wednesday, March 13

5:45pm Vespers
 6:30pm Adult Study Class: Orthodoxy 101 in the Library
 7:30pm Choir Practice in the Church

Friday, March 15

6:30pm Fellowship: Movie and Pizza Night in the Parish House

Saturday, March 16

9:30am Divine Liturgy and Memorial Service on the 2nd Saturday of the Souls

Sunday, March 17

9:15am Orthros
 10:30am Divine Liturgy on Forgiveness Sunday (Cheesefare)
 Sunday School for the Youth following Holy Communion
 Coffee Fellowship in the Parish House after Liturgy
 1:00pm Forgiveness Vespers for the beginning of Great Lent

Monday, March 18

6:00pm Great Compline (Clean Monday/Beginning of Great and Holy Lent)

Tuesday, March 19

6:30pm Parish Council Meeting

Upcoming Epistle Readers: (3/3) Kostas Iakovidis, Rene Esquivel; (3/10) Aleca Hortman, Beth Zoumberis

Upcoming PC Member On-Duty: (3/3) John Apostolou; (3/10) Maria Spicer; (3/17) Sarah D.; (3/24) Melanie M.

Upcoming Ushers: (2/28) Tassie C.; (3/3) Sarah D., Jim L.; (3/9) Cristina L.; (3/10) Cleo B., Charles G.

Upcoming Video Operators: (3/3) David Z.; (3/9) David N.; (3/10+3/16) Natalia S.; (3/17) Cristina L.

Fellowship Hosts: (3/3) Rodica Cazacu; (3/10) Helen Vardy; (3/17) Tassie Cantrell; (3/24) Maria Mahoney

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

Σὺ, Κύριε, φυλάξαις ἡμᾶς καὶ
διατηρήσαις ἡμᾶς.

Στίχ. Σῶσόν με, Κύριε, ὅτι
ἐκλέλοιπεν ὁσῖος.

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Πρὸς Τιμόθεον Β΄ Ἐπιστολῆς
Παύλου τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα.

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Τέκνον Τιμόθεε,
παρηκολούθηκάς μου τῇ
διδασκαλίᾳ, τῇ ἀγωγῇ, τῇ
προθέσει, τῇ πίστει, τῇ
μακροθυμίᾳ, τῇ ἀγάπῃ, τῇ
ὑπομονῇ, τοῖς διωγμοῖς, τοῖς
παθήμασιν, οἷά μοι ἐγένοντο ἐν
Ἀντιοχείᾳ, ἐν Ἰκονίῳ, ἐν
Λύστροις· οἴους διωγμούς
ὑπήνεγκα καὶ ἐκ πάντων με
ἐρρύσατο ὁ Κύριος. Καὶ πάντες
δὲ οἱ θέλοντες εὐσεβῶς ζῆν ἐν
Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ διωχθήσονται·
πονηροὶ δὲ ἄνθρωποι καὶ γόητες
προκόψουσιν ἐπὶ τὸ χεῖρον,
πλανῶντες καὶ πλανώμενοι. Σὺ
δὲ μένε ἐν οἷς ἔμαθες καὶ
ἐπιστάθης, εἰδὼς παρὰ τίνος
ἔμαθες, καὶ ὅτι ἀπὸ βρέφους τὰ
ιερά γράμματα οἶδας, τὰ
δυναμένα σε σοφίσει εἰς
σωτηρίαν διὰ πίστεως τῆς ἐν
Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ τῷ Κυρίῳ ἡμῶν.

*You shall guard us, O Lord; You
shall preserve us.*

*Verse: Save me, O Lord, for the
holy man has ceased.*

(Psalm 11)

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

(3:10-15)

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Timothy, my son, you have
observed my teaching, my
conduct, my aim in life, my faith,
my patience, my love, my
steadfastness, my persecutions,
my sufferings, what befell me at
Antioch, at Iconion, and at
Lystra, what persecutions I
endured; yet from them all the
Lord rescued me. Indeed all who
desire to live a godly life in Christ
Jesus will be persecuted, while
evil men and impostors will go on
from bad to worse, deceivers and
deceived. But as for you, continue
in what you have learned and
have firmly believed, knowing
from whom you learned it and
how from childhood you have
been acquainted with the sacred
writings which are able to
instruct you for salvation through
faith in Christ Jesus.

The Holy Gospel Reading according to St. Luke (18:10-14)

Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee

Εἶπεν ὁ Κύριος τὴν
παραβολὴν ταύτην·
Ἄνθρωποι δύο ἀνέβησαν εἰς
τὸ ἱερόν προσεύξασθαι, ὁ εἰς
Φαρισαῖος καὶ ὁ ἕτερος
τελώνης. ὁ Φαρισαῖος σταθεὶς
πρὸς ἑαυτὸν ταῦτα
προσηύχετο· ὁ Θεός,
εὐχαριστῶ σοι ὅτι οὐκ εἰμι
ὡσπερ οἱ λοιποὶ τῶν
ἀνθρώπων, ἄρπαγες, ἄδικοι,
μοιχοί, ἢ καὶ ὡς οὗτος ὁ
τελώνης· νηστεύω δις τοῦ
σαββάτου, ἀποδεκατῶ πάντα
ὅσα κτῶμαι. καὶ ὁ τελώνης
μακρόθεν ἐστῶς οὐκ ἠθέληεν
οὐδὲ τοὺς ὀφθαλμοὺς εἰς τὸν
οὐρανὸν ἐπάραι, ἀλλ' ἔτυπεν
εἰς τὸ στήθος αὐτοῦ λέγων· ὁ
Θεός, ἰλάσθητί μοι τῷ
ἁμαρτωλῷ. λέγω ὑμῖν, κατέβη
οὗτος δεδικαιωμένος εἰς τὸν
οἶκον αὐτοῦ ἢ γὰρ ἐκεῖνος·
ὅτι πᾶς ὁ ὑψῶν ἑαυτὸν
ταπεινωθήσεται, ὁ δὲ
ταπεινῶν ἑαυτὸν ὑψωθήσεται.

The Lord said this parable,
“Two men went up into the
temple to pray, one a
Pharisee and the other a
tax collector. The Pharisee
stood and prayed thus
with himself, ‘God, I thank
you that I am not like
other men, extortioners,
unjust, adulterers, or even
like this tax collector. I fast
twice a week, I give tithes
of all that I get.’ But the
tax collector, standing far
off, would not even lift up
his eyes to heaven, but
beat his breast, saying,
‘God, be merciful to me a
sinner!’ I tell you, this man
went down to his house
justified rather than the
other; for everyone who
exalts himself will be
humbled, but he who
humbles himself will be
exalted.”

HOLY CROSS

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 February 25, 2024

Ushers on Duty: Cheryl and Erick Schwartzkopf

Video: Cristina L.

Altar Servers: All Adult/Youth Servers

Epistle Readers: Pete Tsamolias (Greek); Sarah Drakopoulos (English)

Fellowship Host (Thank You!): Eleni Adams

PC Member On-Duty: Jim Lekas



Today our Holy Orthodox Church commemorates:

- + Beginning of the Triodion: Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee

The Pharisees were an ancient and outstanding sect among the Jews known for their diligent observance of the outward matters of the Law. Although, according to the word of our Lord, they "did all their works to be seen of men" (Matt. 23:5), and were hypocrites (ibid. 23: 13, 14, 15, etc.), because of the apparent holiness of their lives they were thought by all to be righteous, and separate from others, which is what the name Pharisee means. On the other hand, Publicans, collectors of the royal taxes, committed many injustices and extortions for filthy lucre's sake, and all held them to be sinners and unjust. It was therefore according to common opinion that the Lord Jesus in His parable signified a virtuous person by a Pharisee, and a sinner by a Publican, to teach His disciples the harm of pride and the profit of humble-mindedness. Since the chief weapon for virtue is humility, and the greatest hindrance to it is pride, the divine Fathers have set these three weeks before the Forty-day Fast as a preparation for the spiritual struggles of virtue. This present week they have called Harbinger, since it declares that the Fast is approaching; and they set humility as the foundation for all our spiritual labors by appointing that the parable of the Publican and the Pharisee be read today, even before the Fast begins, to teach, through the vaunting of the Pharisee, that the foul smoke of self-esteem and the stench of boasting drives away the grace of the Spirit, strips man of all his virtue, and casts him into the pits of Hades; and, through the repentance and contrite prayer of the Publican, that humility confers upon the sinner forgiveness of all his wicked deeds and raises him up to the greatest heights. All foods are allowed the week that follows this Sunday.

- + Our Father among the Saints, Tarasios the Confessor, Archbishop of Constantinople (+806)
- + The Holy Martyr Alexander (+305)
- + The Holy Hieromartyr Reginus, Bishop of Scopolus
- + The Holy Martyr Anthony
- + Our Devout Father Theodore, the Fool for Christ
- + The Holy Hieromartyr Markellos of Cyprus, Bishop of Apamea in Syria

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 (Τὸν οὐρανάρχον 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 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 servant, and forgive every sin he has 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 Publican and the Pharisee (Φαρισαίου πύγωμεν, Fourth Mode):*

Let us flee the Pharisee's * exalted parlance; * let us learn the Publican's * humble demeanor, and with sighs * unto the Savior cry out and say, * To us be gracious, O only forgiving Lord. (Greek text found in large hymnal on pg. 254)

Guidance, Prayer Requests, and Announcements

This Week's Daily

Scripture Readings and Fasting Guidance:

Sunday (2/25—No Fasting): Luke 24:12-35; II Timothy 3:10-15; Luke 18:10-14

Monday (2/26—No Fasting): II Peter 1:20-21; 2:1-9; Mark 13:9-13

Tuesday (2/27—No Fasting): II Peter 2:9-22; Mark 13:14-23

Wednesday (2/28—No Fasting): II Peter 3:1-18; Mark 13:24-31

Thursday (2/29—No Fasting): I John 1:8-10, 2:1-6; Mark 13:31-27, 14:1-2

Friday (3/1—No Fasting): I John 2:7-17; Mark 14:3-9

Saturday (3/2—No Fasting): I Timothy 6:11-16; Luke 20:46-47, 21:1-4

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, 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, Bill, Virginia, Karl, Colin, Mitch, Rinne, Michael

Prayers for those recently reposed:

Kathy (+February 6)

Prayers for expecting mothers:

Julie G., 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, Malachi, Nate, Schyler and pray for those who are seeking Christ and His Church!

Weekly Wisdom of the Fathers:

The Holy Hymnography of our Orthodox Church enters us into the Triodion period, chanting on the Sundays of this period and Great Lent: Open to me the gates of repentance, O Giver of Life, for early in the morning my spirit hastens to Your holy temple, bringing the temple of my body all defiled. But as one compassionate, cleanse me, I pray, by Your loving-kindness and mercy.

When I ponder in my wretchedness on the many terrible things that I have done, I tremble for that fearful day, the Day of Judgment. But trusting in the mercy of Your compassion, like David I cry to You, "Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your great mercy."

Upcoming Celebrations This Week

Name Days—Chronia Polla, Many Years!

February 26: Fotini (Tammi) Cantrell

February 29: Kassiani Andros

Birthdays—Happy Birthday!

February 26: Carter Zoumberis

February 27: Jessica Holland

February 29: Marie-Louise Saratsiotis

Anniversaries—Congratulations!

February 27: Georgia and George Saratsiotis

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

Announcements:

* **YOUTH:** Altar Server meeting after Sunday School and Rock Climbing at Macon Rocks TODAY after Youth Greek School!

* The **Introduction to the Orthodox Church** class will meet this Wednesday at **5:30pm** in the Parish House and on Zoom. The topic will be a continuation on "Prayer." Please contact Fr. Theodore for more information.

*The **Bookstore** will not be open this Wednesday.

***GREEK SPRING FLING** will be March 9th. We are asking all GOYANS, YA & NSYA to help set-up on Friday, March 8th @ 6pm and all day Saturday, March 9th. We will set-up on Saturday at 7am - 8:30, pause set-up for church services and then continue after Liturgy. Hours for the Spring Fling are 11am-7pm. For our Social 60+ Group, you are more than welcome to come help or simply come and enjoy the ambiance. For those that can help out, please go to the link to sign up: volunteersignup.org/YTLFE. If you have any questions, please contact one of the festival chairmen.

* **Greek Dancing** for the youth and young adults will resume next Sunday, March 3rd and will take place once a month! If you did not have a chance to contribute towards the traditional costumes over the last couple of Sundays, one can still contribute online by the normal means (Venmo, PayPal, etc) with the notation "Greek Dance."

* **FESTIVAL YARD SIGNS** have been ordered. We were able to order extra signs. These signs will be used each year (the dates will be removable). If you did not order a sign but would still like one, please contact Natalia Saratsiotis. The cost for each sign is \$17 (or you can round up to \$20).

* Please see the link sent by email regarding **Great Lent/Holy Week/Pascha** and ways that one can assist with the many opportunities that the Church places before us during this blessed season. This is a beautiful way to participate and give back to our Holy Cross Church. Thank you in advance!

* **Red Cross Blood Drive:** Friday, March 29 from 3-7pm. Sign up at: <https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?zipSponsor=HolyCrossGreekOrthodoxChurch>

* Fr. Theodore will be out of town from Thursday, February 29 to Thursday, March 7. There will be a substitute priest to serve at Holy Cross on Sunday, March 3.