HOLY CROSS
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
899 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
Mode of the Week: Plagal of the First /Πλ. του Πρώτου

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.

Σωθείτως Κύριε τον λαόν σου καὶ εὐλόγησον τὴν κληρονομίαν σου, νίκης 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 worshiping 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!

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 Tsamoulas 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
11:50am 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

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 Iakovides, Rene Esquivel; (3/10) Aleca Hertman, Beth Zoumbiris

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

Upcoming Ushers:

Upcoming Video Operators:

Upcoming Fellowship Hosts:
(3/3) Robbi Canup; (3/10) Helen Vardy; (3/17) Tassie Cantrell; (3/24) Maria Mahoney
Epistle Reading

You shall guard us, O Lord; You shall preserve us.
Verse: Save me, O Lord, for the holy man has ceased.
(Psalm 11)

The reading is from Paul's Second Letter to Timothy.
(3:10-15)

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

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.”
**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 (1 Tim. 5:19, 13:15, etc.), because of the apparent holiness of their lives they were thought by all to be righteous, and separate from others, which is the name Pharisee means. On the other hand, Publicans, collectors of the royal taxes, committed many injustices and extortions for fifteen hours’ work 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 and the profit of humble-mindedness. Since the clay weapon for virtue is humility, and the greatest hindrance to it is pride, the divine Fathers have set these three weeks before the Forty Days of fasting as a preparation for the spiritual struggles of virtue. This present week as a preparation for the spiritual struggles of virtue.

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**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 αναζωογονησαν Αυγον, 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 (Σωτον Κηφη, 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 (Μνημηση, Κηφη, Plagal 4 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 (Φαρισαϊος και Φυγωμεν, Fourth Mode):**
  - Let us flee the Pharisee’s * exalted parlance; * let us learn the Publician’s * humble demeanor, and with sighs * unto the Savor cry out and say. * To be gracious, O only forgiving Lord. (Greek text found in large hymnal on pg. 254)

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**This Week’s Daily Scripture Readings and Fasting Guidance:**

**Sunday:** (2/25 – No Fasting) Luke 24:12-35; Mark 10:15-16; Luke 18:4-14
**Wednesday:** (2/28 – No Fasting) Luke 2:31-36; Mark 13:23-24
**Thursday:** (3/1 – No Fasting) Luke 1:8-10, 21-6; Mark 13:13-27, 14-1:2
**Friday:** (3/1 – No Fasting) Luke 2:27-17; Mark 13:4-20
**Saturday:** (3/2 – No Fasting) Luke 6:11-16; 4:27-40; 1:21-14

**Prayer Requests:**

Fr. Symeon (mission priest supported by our parish, Panteleimon, Michael, Kassiani, Michael, Dimitrios, George, Irina, Anna, Walter, Irene, Valerie, Gear, John, Keith, Jeannie, Dawn, Kenneth, Hermoine, Mary, Kay, Helen, Nikka, Mena, Austin, Kiley, Garrett, Caroline, Maria, Kirby, Lindsey, Randy, Marina, Effie, Christina, Ashley, Foster, Peggy, Lynn, Dimitri, Stelianos, Brian, Vassilios, Bessie, Katerina, Link, Bill, Virginia, Kiley, Garrett, Carolina, Colin, Mitch, Rinne, Randy, Mary

**Prayers for those recently reposed:**

- **Vassilios, Bessie, Katerina, Link, Bill, Virginia, Karl, Colin, Mitch, Rinne, Michael**

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**Weekly Wisdom of the Fathers:**

The Holy Hymnography of our Orthodox Church enters us into the Triodion 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 happen to me, I cry to You, the Day of Judgment. But trusting in the mercy of Your compassion, like David I cry to You, “Have mercy on me, according to Your great mercy.”

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**Upcoming Celebrations This Week:**

**Name Days—Chronia Polla, Many Years!**
  - February 26: Fotini (Tammi) Cantrell
  - February 29: Kassiani Androutsopoulos

**Birthdays—Happy Birthday!**
  - February 26: Jennifer Holland
  - February 27: Jessica Holland

**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!)

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**Greeks Spring Fling** will be March 9th. We are asking all GOYANS, YA & NSYA to help set-up on Friday, March 8th & 9th from 8:30-10:30 PM. 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 more information: Fr. Theodore or Natalia Saratsiotis.

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**Greek Dancing** for the youth and young adults will resume next Sunday, March 10th, at 7:30pm. Please come once a month! If you did not have a chance to contribute towards the traditional Greek Spring Fling, one can still contribute online by the normal means (Venmo, PayPal, etc) with the notation “Greek Dance.”

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**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 will be $10. If 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 services 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.redcross.org/give.html/drive-results?zipSponsor=HolyCrossGreekOrthodoxChurch

Fr. Theodore: We 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.