



HOLY CROSS

GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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

Sunday, February 4, 2024

15th Sunday of Matthew

St. Isidore of Pelusium / Godparent Sunday

Eothinon/Orthros Gospel: Second (Mark 16:1-8)

Mode of the Week: Second / Δεύτερος

QR Codes (scan with smart phone for service texts)

Orthros



Divine Liturgy



Upcoming Schedule

Today, February 4

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)

Wednesday, February 7

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

Friday, February 9

5:00pm Great Vespers and Divine Liturgy for the Feast of St. Haralambos

Saturday, February 10

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

Sunday, February 11

9:15am Orthros
 10:30am Divine Liturgy on the 16th 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

Friday, February 16

5:00pm Vespers for the Feast of St. Theodore the Recruit

Sunday, February 18

9:15am Orthros
 10:30am Divine Liturgy on the Sunday of the Canaanite
 Sunday School for the Youth following Holy Communion
 Coffee Fellowship in the Parish House after the Liturgy
 12:45pm Greek School (Adult)

Monday, February 19

President's Day—Office Closed

Tuesday, February 20

6:30pm Parish Council Meeting

Wednesday, February 21

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

Saturday, February 24

8:30am Young Adult/Not So Young Adult Event (Cantrell Center 5k)
 4:00pm Byzantine Chant Class
 5:00pm Great Vespers

Sunday, February 25

9:15am Orthros
 10:30am Divine Liturgy on the Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee
 Sunday School for the Youth following Holy Communion
 Coffee Fellowship, Handmaidens/Altar Servers Meeting, Youth
 Greek School, Adult Bible Study

Upcoming Epistle Readers: (2/11) George Saratsiotis, Panos Drakopoulos; (2/18) Pete Tsamolias, Cleo Bennette

Upcoming PC Member On-Duty: (2/11) Gray Yates; (2/18) Natalia Saratsiotis; (2/25) Jim Lekas

Upcoming Ushers: (2/7) Cristina L.; (2/9) Melanie M., David Z.; (2/10) Maria S.; (2/11) Cristina L., Jim L.

Upcoming Video Operators: (2/11) David Zoumberis; (2/18) Gray Yates; (2/25) Cristina Lekas

Fellowship Hosts: (2/11) Cleo Bennette; (2/18) Despina Passias; (2/25) Eleni Adams; (3/3) Rodica Cazacu

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

Ἰσχύς μου καὶ ὕμνησίς μου ὁ Κύριος, καὶ ἐγένετό μοι εἰς σωτηρίαν.

Στίχ. Παιδεύων ἐπαίδευσέ με ὁ Κύριος, καὶ τῷ θανάτῳ οὐ παρέδωκέ με.

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Πρὸς Κορινθίους Β' Ἐπιστολῆς
Παύλου τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα.

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Ἀδελφοί, ὁ Θεὸς ὁ εἰπὼν, ἐκ σκότους φῶς λάμψαι, ὃ ἐλάμψεν ἐν ταῖς καρδίαις ἡμῶν πρὸς φωτισμὸν τῆς γνώσεως τῆς δόξης τοῦ Θεοῦ ἐν προσώπῳ Χριστοῦ. Ἔχομεν δὲ τὸν θησαυρὸν τοῦτον ἐν ὀστρακίνοις σκεύεσιν, ἵνα ἡ ὑπερβολὴ τῆς δυνάμεως ἧ τοῦ Θεοῦ καὶ μὴ ἐξ ἡμῶν· ἐν παντὶ θλιβόμενοι ἀλλ' οὐ στενοχωρούμενοι, ἀπορούμενοι ἀλλ' οὐκ ἐξαπορούμενοι, διωκόμενοι ἀλλ' οὐκ ἐγκαταλειπόμενοι, καταβαλλόμενοι ἀλλ' οὐκ ἀπολλύμενοι, πάντοτε τὴν νέκρωσιν τοῦ Ἰησοῦ ἐν τῷ σώματι περιφέροντες, ἵνα καὶ ἡ ζωὴ τοῦ Ἰησοῦ ἐν τῷ σώματι ἡμῶν φανερωθῇ. Αἰεὶ γὰρ ἡμεῖς οἱ ζῶντες εἰς θάνατον παραδιδόμεθα διὰ Ἰησοῦν, ἵνα καὶ ἡ ζωὴ τοῦ Ἰησοῦ φανερωθῇ ἐν τῇ θνητῇ σαρκὶ ἡμῶν. Ὡστε ὁ θάνατος ἐν ἡμῖν ἐνεργεῖται, ἡ δὲ ζωὴ ἐν ὑμῖν. Ἔχοντες δὲ τὸ αὐτὸ πνεῦμα τῆς πίστεως, κατὰ τὸ γεγραμμένον, Ἐπίστευσα, διὸ ἐλάλησα, καὶ ἡμεῖς πιστεύομεν, διὸ καὶ λαλοῦμεν, εἰδότες ὅτι ὁ ἐγείρας τὸν Κύριον Ἰησοῦν καὶ ἡμᾶς σὺν Ἰησοῦ ἐγερεῖ καὶ παραστήσει σὺν ὑμῖν. Τὰ γὰρ πάντα δι' ὑμᾶς, ἵνα ἡ χάρις πλεονάσασα διὰ τῶν πλειόνων τὴν εὐχαριστίαν περισσεύσῃ εἰς τὴν δόξαν τοῦ Θεοῦ.

The Lord is my strength and my song, and He became my salvation.

Verse: The Lord chastened and corrected me, but He did not give me up to death. (Psalm 117)

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The reading is from Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians. (4:6-15)

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Brethren, it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, to show that the transcendent power belongs to God and not to us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. For while we live we are always being given up to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may be manifested in our mortal flesh. So death is at work in us, but life in you. Since we have the same spirit of faith as he had who wrote, "I believed, and so I spoke," we too believed, and so we speak, knowing that He who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into His presence. For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

The Holy Gospel Reading according to St. Matthew (22:35-46)

15th Sunday of Matthew

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, νομικός τις προσῆλθε τῷ Ἰησοῦ, πειράζων αὐτόν καὶ λέγων· Διδάσκαλε, ποία ἐντολὴ μεγάλη ἐν τῷ νόμῳ; ὁ δὲ Ἰησοῦς ἔφη αὐτῷ· Ἀγαπήσεις Κύριον τὸν Θεόν σου ἐν ὅλῃ τῇ καρδίᾳ σου καὶ ἐν ὅλῃ τῇ ψυχῇ σου καὶ ἐν ὅλῃ τῇ διανοίᾳ σου· αὕτη ἐστὶ πρώτη καὶ μεγάλη ἐντολή. δευτέρα δὲ ὁμοία αὐτῇ· ἀγαπήσεις τὸν πλησίον σου ὡς σεαυτόν. ἐν ταύταις ταῖς δυσὶν ἐντολαῖς ὅλος ὁ νόμος καὶ οἱ προφῆται κρέμανται. Συνηγμένων δὲ τῶν Φαρισαίων ἐπηρώτησεν αὐτοὺς ὁ Ἰησοῦς λέγων· Τί ὑμῖν δοκεῖ περὶ τοῦ Χριστοῦ; τίνος υἱὸς ἐστὶ; λέγουσιν αὐτῷ· Τοῦ Δαυὶδ. λέγει αὐτοῖς· Πῶς οὖν Δαυὶδ ἐν Πνεύματι Κύριον καλεῖ αὐτὸν λέγων, εἶπεν ὁ Κύριος τῷ Κυρίῳ μου, κάθου ἐκ δεξιῶν μου ἕως ἂν θῶ τοὺς ἐχθρούς σου ὑποπόδιον τῶν ποδῶν σου; εἰ οὖν Δαυὶδ καλεῖ αὐτὸν Κύριον, πῶς υἱὸς αὐτοῦ ἐστὶ; καὶ οὐδεὶς ἐδύνατο αὐτῷ ἀποκριθῆναι λόγον, οὐδὲ ἐτόλμησέ τις ἀπ' ἐκείνης τῆς ἡμέρας ἐπερωτῆσαι αὐτὸν οὐκέτι.

At that time, a lawyer asked him a question, to test him. "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?" And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it, You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the law and the prophets." Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them a question, saying, "What do you think of Christ? Whose son is he?" They said to him, "The son of David." He said to them, "How is it then that David, inspired by the Spirit, calls him Lord, saying, 'The Lord said to my Lord, Sit at my right hand, till I put your enemies under your feet'? If David thus calls him Lord, how is he his son?" And no one was able to answer him a word, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

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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 February 4, 2024

Ushers on Duty: Cleo Bennette, Sarah Drakopoulos

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

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

Fellowship Host (Thank You!): Parish Council

PC Member On-Duty: Melanie Moye



Today our Holy Orthodox Church commemorates:

+ Our Devout Father Isidore of Pelusium (+440)

This Saint was from Alexandria and was a disciple of Saint John Chrysostom. He struggled in asceticism in a monastery at Mount Pelusium, and became abbot of the monks struggling in that monastery. He wrote a great many epistles replete with divine grace, wisdom, and much profit. Over 2,000 of them are preserved in Volume 78 of Migne's Patrologia Graeca (PG 78:177-1646); according to some, he wrote over 3,000 epistles, according to others, 10,000. He reposed on February 4, 440.

+ Our Devout Father Nicholas the Confessor and Studite (+868)

+ The Holy Priest-Martyr Abramius, Bishop of Arbeil in Persia (+345)

During the imprisonment of Bishop Ioannis of Arbela, he was appointed as his deputy by the local religious community. The church historian Sozomen described in the second book of his Christian Church, among other things, the persecutions and tortures that took place in the Persian Empire under Shapur II. In paragraph 8 of chapter 8 he says: "At that same period of government [of Sapor] the blood of an almost innumerable multitude of bishops, priests, deacons, lower clergy, religious and consecrated virgins, received the crown of martyrdom." Among the names he had been able to retrieve, the name of Bishop Abraham of Arbela also appeared. He was tortured and later beheaded under Shapur II because he refused to worship the sun in Telman.

+ Our Devout Father John of Irenopolis and the Holy Martyr Theoktistos (+325)

+ The Devout Wonder-worker Jasimus (+3rd Century)

+ The Holy New Martyr Joseph of Aleppo (+1686)

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 the Meeting of the Lord (Χαίρε κεχαριτωμένη, First Mode):*

Lady full of grace, rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, for Christ our God, the Sun of righteousness has risen from you and He illumined those in darkness. And you, righteous Elder, be glad in heart, receiving in your embraces the One who liberates our souls and bestows on us the Resurrection. (Sung before the Small Entrance and after the Hymn of the Resurrection. Greek text found in large hymnal on pg. 212)

- *Weekly Resurrectional Hymn (Ότε κατήλθες, Second Mode):*

When You descended unto Death, O Lord, You who are immortal Life put Hades to death, by the lightning of Your divinity. And when You raised the dead from the netherworld, all the hosts of heaven sang aloud to You, "O Christ God, Giver of life, glory to You!" (Sung after the Small Entrance. Greek text found in large hymnal on pg. 102)

- *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 Meeting of the Lord (Ο μήτρων, 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 (2/4—No Fasting): Mark 16:1-8; II Corinthians 4:6-15; Matthew 22:35-46

Monday (2/5—No Fasting): Hebrews 11:17-31; Mark 9:42-50, 10:1

Tuesday (2/6—St. Photios—No Fasting): John 10:1-9; Hebrews 7:26-28, 8:1-2; John 10:9-16

Wednesday (2/7—Strict Fast): James 1:1-18; Mark 10:11-16

Thursday (2/8—No Fasting): Ephesians 2:4-10; Matthew 10:16-22

Friday (2/9—Strict Fast): James 2:1-13; Mark 10:24-32

Saturday (2/10—St. Haralambos—No Fasting): II Timothy 2:1-10; John 15:17-27, 16:1-2

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, Michael

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:

St. Photios the Great, commemorated this week, on the importance of holding fast to the Truth and the consequences if we do not: "The first error of the Latins was to compel the faithful to strictly fast on Saturdays. (I mention this seemingly small point because the least departure from Tradition can lead to a scorning of every dogma of our Faith.) Next, they convinced the faithful to despise the marriage of priests, thereby sowing in their souls the seeds of the Manichean heresy. Likewise, they persuaded them that all who had been chrismated by priests had to be anointed again by bishops. In this way, they hoped to show that Chrismation by priests had no value, thereby ridiculing this divine and supernatural Christian Mystery. From whence comes this law forbidding priests to anoint with Holy Chrism? From what lawgiver, Apostle, Father, or Synod? For, if a priest cannot chrismate the newly-baptised, then surely neither can he baptize. Or, how can a priest consecrate the Body and Blood of Christ our Lord in the Divine Liturgy if, at the same time, he cannot chrismate with Holy Chrism? If this grace then, is taken from the priests, the episcopal rank is diminished, for the bishop stands at the head of the choir of priests. But the impious Westerners did not stop their lawlessness even here. They attempted by their false

opinions and distorted words to ruin the holy and sacred Nicene Symbol of Faith — which by both synodal and universal decisions possesses invincible power — by adding to it that the Holy Spirit proceeds not only from the Father, as the Symbol declares, but from the Son also. Until now, no one has ever heard even a heretic pronounce such a teaching. What Christian can accept the introduction of two sources into the Holy Trinity; that is, that the Father is one source of the Son and the Holy Spirit, and that the Son is another source of the Holy Spirit, thereby transforming the monarchy of the Holy Trinity into a dual divinity?

Upcoming Celebrations This Week

Name Days—Chronia Polla, Many Years!

February 10: Harry Bennette, Harry Zaloumes

Birthdays—Happy Birthday!

February 4: Harry Zaloumes

February 5: Richard Stewart

February 6: Louis Bennette

February 8: Brad Perry, Dimitris Saratsiotis

Anniversaries—Congratulations!

February 4: Louis and Maggie Bennette

(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.

* **YOUTH:** Rock Climbing at Macon Rocks on Sunday, February 25 after Youth Greek School!

* **Philoptochos:** There will be a general meeting that will take place after the Divine Liturgy next 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 Vespers. The topic will be what the Orthodox Church believes about Iconography. 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. Please save the date—especially young adults/not-so-young adults!

* **Not-So-Young Adults/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, March 3rd and will take place once a month! If you did not have a chance to contribute towards the traditional costumes last Sunday, one can still contribute online by the normal means (Venmo, PayPal, etc) with the notation "Greek Dance."