HOLY CROSS
GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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

Sunday, March 24, 2024
Sunday of Orthodoxy
Forefeast of the Annunciation of the Theotokos
Eothinon/Orthros Gospel: Ninth (John 20:19-31)
Mode of the Week: First / Πρώτος

Our Parish Hymn of the Holy Cross of Christ:
Σῶσον 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 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!
Blessed are You, O Lord God of our fathers, for You are praiseworthy and exalted beyond measure unto the ages.

(Prayer of Azariah)

The reading is from Paul’s Letter to the Hebrews. (11:24-26, 32-40)

Brethren, by faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter, choosing rather to share ill-treatment with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. He considered abuse suffered for the Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he looked to the reward. And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets— who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, even triumphed over kings—always acting in faith, as Moses and the man of faith, Rahab, and the apostles of faith and others.

Verse: For You are righteous in all You did for us, all You brought on us and on Jerusalem, the holy city of our fathers. (Prayer of Azariah)

The Holy Gospel Reading according to St. John (1:43-51)

Sunday of Orthodoxy

Tō kaiρῷ ἐκείνῳ, ἡμέρας ἡ Ἡσυχίας ἡμῶν, ἣν ἤμελθεν ὁ Ἰησοῦς ἐξελθεῖν εἰς τὴν Γαλιλαίαν καὶ εὑρίσκει δύο ἄνδρας Ἰωσὴφ τὸν Ναζαρηνοῦ καὶ Ναθαναήλ, ἐκ τῆς πόλεος Ναζαρέτου. Ἐξελθεῖν εἰς τὴν Γαλιλαίαν ἦν Ἰησοῦς ὑπὸ τοῦ λόγου τοῦ Προφήτου τοῦ Ἐζεκίλη προσέγγισεν ἀπὸ τοῦ νόμου καὶ τοῦ τοῦτο ἐποίησε, ἂν ὧν ἦν ἀξιός ὁ λαὸς τοὺς ἀγγέλους τοῦ θεοῦ ἀναβαίνοντας καὶ ἀνεῳγότα, καὶ τοὺς ἀγγέλους τοῦ θεοῦ ἀναβαίνοντας καὶ ἀνεῳγότα, καὶ τοὺς ἀγγέλους τοῦ θεοῦ ἀναβαίνοντας καὶ ἀνεῳγότα, καὶ τοὺς ἀγγέλους τοῦ θεοῦ ἀναβαίνοντας καὶ ἀνεῳγότα, καὶ τοὺς ἀγγέλους τοῦ θεοῦ ἀναβαίνοντας καὶ ἀνεῳγότα, καὶ τοὺς ἀγγέλους τοῦ θεοῦ ἀναβαίνοντας καὶ ἀνεῳγότα, καὶ τοὺς ἀγγέλους τοῦ θεοῦ ἀναβαίνοντας καὶ ἀνεῳγότα, καὶ τοὺς ἀγγέλους τοῦ θεοῦ ἀναβαίνοντας καὶ ἀνεῳγότα, καὶ τοὺς ἀγγέλους τοῦ θεοῦ ἀναβαίνοντας καὶ ἀνεῳγότα, καὶ τοὺς ἀγγέλους τοῦ θεοῦ ἀναβαίνοντας καὶ ἀνεῳγότα, καὶ τοὺς ἀγγέλους τοῦ θεοῦ ἀναβαίνοντας καὶ ἀνε知名企业 that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

καὶ αἰτῶν καὶ διδοξαζομένων τὸ ὄνομά σου εἰς Ἀμήν πρὸς Ἑβραίους Ἐπιστολῆς Παύλου Ἱερουσαλήμ.

(Prayer of Azariah)
Today our Holy Orthodox Church commemorates:

- + First Sunday of Great Lent: Sunday of Orthodoxy
  For more than one hundred years the Church of Christ was troubled by the persecution of the Iconoduels of evil belief beginning in the reign of Leo the Isaurian (717–743) and ending in the reign of Theophilus (829–842). After Theophilus’s death, his widow the Empress Theodora (celebrated February 11), together with the Patriarch Methodius (June 14), established Orthodoxy anew. This ever memorable Queen venerated the icon of the Mother of God in the presence of the Patriarch Methodius and the other confessors and righteous men, and openly cried out these holy words: “If anyone does not offer reverence to the holy icons, not adoring them as though they were gods, but venerating them out of love as images of the archetype, let him be anathema.” Then with common prayer and fasting during the whole week of the Forty-day Fast, she asked God’s forgiveness for her husband. After this, on the first Sunday of the Fast, she and her son, Michael the Emperor, made a procession with all the clergy and people and restored the holy icons, and again admonished the Church of Christ with them. This is the holy deed that all we the Orthodox commemorate today, and we call this radiant and venerable day the Sunday of Orthodoxy.

- @ The stone having been sealed by the Pharisees and chief soldiers, * You rose on the third day, O Lord and Savior, * and Your all-powerful and victorious power and saving work You bestowed on the Thieves. Yes, You glorified Your holy Cross, * and You encourage me, * even me, a sinner and one polluted. * I know, O Lord, * that You have called me, * and You have saved me, * through the might of the Cross of God. * (Kontakion of the Annunciation ( pg. 8 in the Small Book / pg. 37 in the Hymnal))

- % Weekly Hymn of the Resurrection (Too λίθον ἑαυτοῦ 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!”

- @ Hymn of the Sunday of Orthodoxy (Τού λίθου ἑαυτοῦ σφραγισθέντος, Second Mode)
  We venerate Your immaculate icon, O good Lord, and entreat You to forgive our offenses, O Christ our God. By Your own choice you were pleased to ascend the Cross in Your own choice you were pleased to ascend the Cross in 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!”

- $ Prayers for those recently reposed:
  John (+February 14), Eleni (+February 24)

- % Church的美好精神

- [Please see the email that was sent or contact Fr. Theodore for more information.]

- @ Holy Cross Blood Drive: This coming Friday, March 29 from 3-7pm. Sign up at: https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?zipSponsor=HolyCrossGreekOrthodoxChurch

- Sunny: Congratulations to Jane Johnson on the occasion of her Holy Baptism yesterday, Saturday, March 23. God grant him many years and salvation in His Holy Name! Jane’s sponsor is Rene Esquivel and Jane received the name of George.

- & The Bookstore is planning to be open this coming Wednesday, March 28 from 10am to 5pm. The Church will also be open for prayer during that time.

- # Lenten Spiritual Book Discussion is taking place during the Light Lenten meal after the Pre-Sanctified Liturgy on Wednesday, March 28. It’s a fun and educational program honoring Greek Independence Day!

- @ Anniversaries—Congratulations! None in the Records

- [If you would like to participate in the 2024 Paschal Lilies Dedication on Saturday, April 15, go to the link that was sent by email. You may also place your request in the comments, and please specify on the memo line Paschal Lilies Dedication). Deadline is Palm Sunday, April 28th. Names will be listed in the Paschal bulletin as well as the following Sunday.]

- * Great News! The people making the yard signs made an error and so we got them even cheaper! So instead of them being $15–$20, they are only $10!! Please let Natalia Saratsiotis know if you are interested in purchasing one or two or more!

- [If you are interested in LiveStreaming services, please contact Rev. Fr. Theodore. We try to have a substitute if she is willing to teach anyone who is willing to learn. We are looking for a few more people to add to the team.

- % not-so-young-adult:

- @ • Not So-Young Adult: Please save the date for the next get-together taking place after the Salutations to the Saints on the evening of Friday, April 19.

- [Thank You, Eυχαριστούντες! To Greek the Holy Cross Youth for enriching us today with their program honoring Greek Independence Day!]

- * This Week’s Daily Scripture Readings and Fasting Guidance:
  Tuesday (3/26—Synaxis of Archangel Gabriel—Wine + Oil): Isaiah 5:7-16; Genesis 4:8-15; Proverbs 5:1-15
  Wednesday (3/27—Strict Fast): Isaiah 5:16-26; Genesis 4:16-26; Proverbs 5:15-63
  Saturday (3/30—Wine + Oil): Hebrews 3:12-16; Mark 1:35-45

- % Weekly Wisdom of the Fathers:
  - Happy Birthday: Mary Katherine Saratsiotis
  - Weekly Bookstore table sermon: Robert, Alice, and Stavros Apostolakis

- % Prayer Requests:
  - Prayers for those preparing for their First Holy Baptism:
    - Sunday, April 28th.

- % Church News:
  - Renovations: Week of March 17: Prep for Holy Cross Greek Independence Day! Week of March 24: Prepare for Holy Week!

- % Members:
  - Church Office
  - Church Bookstore
  - Fellowship Fellowship
  - Church Bulletin

- % Epistle Readers:
  - Natalia Saratsiotis
  - Bryan Gordy (English)

- % Fellowship Host (Thank You!): Maria Mahoney

- % Church Office:
  - Teresa—call or email Fr. to schedule Fortnightly Confession: Wise (Greek text found in large hymnal on pg. 268)