



HOLY CROSS

GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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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

QR Codes (scan with smart phone for service texts)

Orthros



Divine Liturgy



Upcoming Schedule

<i>Today, March 24</i>	9:15am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy on the Sunday of Orthodoxy Procession of the Holy Icons at the end of the Divine Liturgy Greek School Presentation after the Liturgy 5:00pm Sunday of Orthodoxy Vespers (at Annunciation Cathedral, Atlanta)
<i>Monday, March 25</i>	9:30am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy and Doxology on the Annunciation of the Theotokos/ Greek Independence Day
<i>Tuesday, March 26</i>	6:00pm Great Compline
<i>Wednesday, March 27</i>	5:30pm 9 th Hour and Pre-Sanctified Liturgy 7:15pm Light Lenten Meal and Spiritual Book Discussion in the Parish House
<i>Friday, March 29</i>	3:00pm Red Cross Blood Drive in Parish House (until 7:00pm) 6:00pm Small Compline and 2 nd Salutations to the Theotokos
<i>Saturday, March 30</i>	4:00pm Byzantine Chant Class in the Library 5:00pm Great Vespers
<i>Sunday, March 31</i>	9:15am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy on the Sunday of St. Gregory Palamas Sunday School for the Youth following Holy Communion Coffee Fellowship in the Parish House after Liturgy 12:30pm Usher Meeting in the Church 12:45pm Youth Greek School/Adult Bible Study
<i>Tuesday, April 2</i>	6:00pm Great Compline 7:00pm Choir Practice in the Church (tentative)
<i>Wednesday, April 3</i>	5:30pm 9 th Hour and Pre-Sanctified Liturgy 7:15pm Light Lenten Meal and Spiritual Discussion in the Parish House
<i>Friday, April 5</i>	6:00pm Small Compline and 3 rd Salutations to the Theotokos
<i>Saturday, April 6</i>	4:00pm Byzantine Chant Class in the Library 5:00pm Great Vespers
<i>Sunday, April 7</i>	9:15am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy on the Sunday of the Veneration of the Cross Holy Chrismation of C.J. Newberry and Ethan Pellegrino Sunday School for the Youth following Holy Communion Coffee Fellowship in the Parish House after Liturgy 12:45pm Adult Greek School/Youth Greek Dance 5:00pm Pan-Orthodox Vespers and Lenten Meal

Upcoming Epistle Readers: (3/31) Kostas Iakovidis, Nadia Cazacu; (4/7) Aleca Hortman, Mike Cantrell
Upcoming PC Member On-Duty: (3/31) Gray Yates; (4/7) Natalia Saratsiotis; (4/14) Jim Lekas; (4/21) John A.
Upcoming Ushers: (3/25) Eleni+Norm A.; (3/26) Sarah D.; (3/27) Melanie M.; (3/29) Sarah D.; (3/30) Charles G.
Upcoming Video Operators: (3/25) Joanna P.; (3/27) Natalia S.; (3/29) David Z.; (3/31) Gray Y./David N.
Fellowship Hosts: (3/31) Presvytera Stacey; (4/7) Philoptochos; (4/14) Toula Tsamolias; (4/21) Katerina Iakovidis

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

*Εὐλόγητός εἶ Κύριε ὁ Θεὸς τῶν πατέρων ἡμῶν,
καὶ αἰνετὸν καὶ δεδοξασμένον τὸ ὄνομά σου εἰς
τοὺς αἰῶνας.*

*Στίχ. Ὅτι δίκαιος εἶ ἐπὶ πᾶσιν, οἷς ἐποίησας
ἡμῖν, καὶ ἐπὶ τὴν πόλιν τὴν ἁγίαν τὴν τῶν
Πατέρων ἡμῶν Ἱερουσαλήμ.*

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*Πρὸς Ἑβραίους Ἐπιστολῆς Παύλου τὸ
ἀνάγνωσμα.*

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Ἀδελφοί, πίστει Μωϋσῆς μέγας γενόμενος ἠρνήσατο λέγεσθαι υἱὸς θυγατρὸς Φαραῶ, μᾶλλον ἐλόμενος συγκακουχεῖσθαι τῷ λαῷ τοῦ Θεοῦ ἢ πρόσκαιρον ἔχειν ἁμαρτίας ἀπόλαυσιν, μείζονα πλοῦτον ἠγησάμενος τῶν Αἰγύπτου θησαυρῶν τὸν ὀνειδισμόν τοῦ Χριστοῦ· ἀπέβλεπε γὰρ εἰς τὴν μισθαποδοσίαν. Καὶ τί ἔτι λέγω; ἐπιλείπει γάρ με διηγούμενον ὁ χρόνος περὶ Γεδεῶν, Βαράκ τε καὶ Σαμψῶν καὶ Ἰεφθάε, Δαυὶδ τε καὶ Σαμουὴλ καὶ τῶν προφητῶν, οἱ διὰ πίστεως κατηγωνίσαντο βασιλείας, εἰργάσαντο δικαιοσύνην, ἐπέτυχον ἐπαγγελιῶν, ἔφραξαν στόματα λεόντων, ἔσβεσαν δύναμιν πυρός, ἔφυγον στόματα μαχαίρας, ἐνεδυναμώθησαν ἀπὸ ἀσθενείας, ἐγενήθησαν ἰσχυροὶ ἐν πολέμῳ, παρεμβολὰς ἐκλιναν ἄλλοτριῶν· ἔλαβον γυναῖκες ἐξ ἀναστάσεως τοὺς νεκροὺς αὐτῶν· ἄλλοι δὲ ἐτυμpanίσθησαν, οὐ προσδεξάμενοι τὴν ἀπολύτρωσιν, ἵνα κρείττονος ἀναστάσεως τύχωσιν· ἕτεροι δὲ ἐμπαιγμῶν καὶ μαστίγων πείραν ἔλαβον, ἐτι δὲ δεσμῶν καὶ φυλακῆς· ἐλιθάσθησαν, ἐπρίσθησαν, ἐπειράσθησαν, ἐν φόνῳ μαχαίρας ἀπέθανον, περιήλθον ἐν μηλωταῖς, ἐν αἰγείοις δέρμασιν, ὑστερούμενοι, θλιβόμενοι, κακουχούμενοι, ὧν οὐκ ἦν ἄξιος ὁ κόσμος, ἐν ἐρημίαις πλανώμενοι καὶ ὄρεσι καὶ σπηλαίοις καὶ ταῖς ὄπαῖς τῆς γῆς. Καὶ οὗτοι πάντες μαρτυρηθέντες διὰ τῆς πίστεως οὐκ ἔκομίσαντο τὴν ἐπαγγελίαν, τοῦ Θεοῦ περὶ ἡμῶν κρείττον τι προβλεψαμένου, ἵνα μὴ χωρὶς ἡμῶν τελειωθῶσι.

*Blessed are You, O Lord God of our fathers,
for You are praiseworthy and exalted
beyond measure unto the ages.*

*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)*

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

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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, became mighty in war, put foreign enemies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were tempted, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, ill-treated — of whom the world was not worthy — wandering over deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

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

Sunday of Orthodoxy

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, ἠθέλησεν ὁ Ἰησοῦς ἐξελθεῖν εἰς τὴν Γαλιλαίαν· καὶ εὕρισκει Φίλιππον καὶ λέγει αὐτῷ· ἀκολούθει μοι. ἦν δὲ ὁ Φίλιππος ἀπὸ Βηθσαϊδά, ἐκ τῆς πόλεως Ἀνδρέου καὶ Πέτρου. εὕρισκει Φίλιππος τὸν Ναθαναὴλ καὶ λέγει αὐτῷ· ὃν ἔγραψε Μωϋσῆς ἐν τῷ νόμῳ καὶ οἱ προφηταί, εὕρήκαμεν, Ἰησοῦν τὸν υἱὸν τοῦ Ἰωσήφ τὸν ἀπὸ Ναζαρέτ. καὶ εἶπεν αὐτῷ Ναθαναὴλ· ἐκ Ναζαρέτ δύναται τι ἀγαθὸν εἶναι; λέγει αὐτῷ Φίλιππος· ἔρχου καὶ ἴδε. εἶδεν ὁ Ἰησοῦς τὸν Ναθαναὴλ ἐρχόμενον πρὸς αὐτὸν καὶ λέγει περὶ αὐτοῦ· ἴδε ἀληθῶς Ἰσραηλίτης, ἐν ᾧ δόλος οὐκ ἔστι. λέγει αὐτῷ Ναθαναὴλ· πόθεν με γινώσκεις; ἀπεκρίθη Ἰησοῦς καὶ εἶπεν αὐτῷ· πρὸ τοῦ σε Φίλιππον φωνῆσαι, ὄντα ὑπὸ τὴν συκῆν εἶδόν σε. ἀπεκρίθη Ναθαναὴλ καὶ λέγει αὐτῷ· ῥαββί, σὺ εἶ ὁ υἱὸς τοῦ Θεοῦ, σὺ εἶ ὁ βασιλεὺς τοῦ Ἰσραὴλ. ἀπεκρίθη Ἰησοῦς καὶ εἶπεν αὐτῷ· ὅτι εἶπόν σοι, εἶδόν σε ὑποκάτω τῆς συκῆς, πιστεύεις; μείζω τούτων ὄψει. καὶ λέγει αὐτῷ· ἀμὴν ἀμὴν λέγω ὑμῖν, ἀπ' ἄρτι ὄψεσθε τὸν οὐρανὸν ἀνεωγῶτα, καὶ τοὺς ἀγγέλους τοῦ Θεοῦ ἀναβαίνοντας καὶ καταβαίνοντας ἐπὶ τὸν υἱὸν τοῦ ἀνθρώπου.

At that time, Jesus decided to go to Galilee. And he found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. Philip found Nathanael, and he said to him, "We have found him of whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." Nathanael said to him, "Can anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him, "Come and see." Jesus saw Nathanael coming to him, and said of him, "Behold, an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!" Nathanael said to him, "How do you know me?" Jesus answered him, "Before Philip called you, when you were under the fig tree, I saw you." Nathanael answered him, "Rabbi, you are the son of God! You are the King of Israel!" Jesus answered him, "Because I said to you, I saw you under the fig tree, do you believe? You shall see greater things than these." And he said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man."

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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 March 24, 2024

Ushers on Duty: John Apostolou, Maria Spicer

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

Epistle Readers: Pete Tsamolias (Greek); Bryan Gordy (English)

Fellowship Host (Thank You!): Maria Mahoney

PC Member On-Duty: Melanie Moye



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 Iconoclasts of evil belief, beginning in the reign of Leo the Isaurian (717-741) and ending in the reign of Theophilus (829-842). After Theophilus's death, his widow the Empress Theodora (celebrated Feb. 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 relative worship 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 first 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 adorned 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, that is, the triumph of true doctrine over heresy.

+ Fore-feast of the Annunciation of the Theotokos

+ Our Devout Father Artemis, Bishop of Seleucia in Pisidia (+1st Century)

+ The Holy Priest-Martyr Artemon, Presbyter of Laodicea (+284)

+ Our Devout Father Zachariah of Egypt (+4th c.)

+ The Holy Eight Martyrs from Caesarea in Palestine

+ Our Devout Father Martin of Thebes

+ The Holy Hieromartyr Parthenios, Patriarch of Constantinople (+1657)

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. Basil (pg. 8 in the Small Book/pg. 37 in the Hymnal):

- Hymn of the Sunday of Orthodoxy (Την ἀχραντον Εικόνα σου, 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 the flesh, to deliver us, whom You created, from our slavery to the foe. Therefore we cry to You with gratitude: You have filled all things with joy, O our Savior, by coming to save the world. (Sung before the Small Entrance and after the Weekly Resurrectional Hymn. Greek text found in large hymnal on pg. 128)

- Weekly Hymn of the Resurrection (Του λίθου 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 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 Annunciation (Τη υπερμάχω, Plagal of the Fourth Mode):

O Champion General, I your City now inscribe to you Triumphant anthems as the tokens of my gratitude, Being rescued from the terrors, O Theotokos. Inasmuch as you have power unassailable, From all kinds of perils free me, so that unto you I may cry aloud: Rejoice, O unwedded Bride. (Greek text found in large hymnal on pg. 268)

Guidance, Prayer Requests, and Announcements

This Week's Daily

Scripture Readings and Fasting Guidance:

Sunday of Orthodoxy (3/24—Wine+Oil): John 20:19-31; Hebrews 11:24-26, 32-40; John 1:43-51

Monday (3/25—Annunciation of the Theotokos—Fish+Wine+Oil): Luke 1:39-49, 56; Hebrews 2:11-18; Luke 1:24-38

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 5:16-25; Genesis 4:16-26; Proverbs 5:15-6:3

Thursday (3/28—Strict Fast): Isaiah 6:1-12; Genesis 5:1-24; Proverbs 6:3-20

Friday (3/29—Strict Fast): Isaiah 7:1-14; Genesis 5:32-6:8; Proverbs 6:20-7:1

Saturday (3/30—Wine+Oil): Hebrews 3:12-16; Mark 1:35-44

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:

John (+February 14), Eleni (+February 24)

Prayers for expecting mothers:

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

Weekly Wisdom of the Fathers:

St. John of Damascus, one of the great defenders of the Holy Icons, shares with us the Church's wisdom regarding iconography, how they are a beautiful tool of evangelism, and how iconoclasm is work of the Evil One: "Does any one who has divine knowledge and spiritual understanding not recognize that [iconoclasm] is a ruse of the devil? For he does not want his defeat and shame to be spread abroad, nor the glory of God and his saints to be recorded."

Upcoming Celebrations This Week

Name Days—Chronia Polla, Many Years!
None in the Records

Birthdays—Happy Birthday!

March 26: Charles Glotzbach, Katerina Iakovidis
March 28: David Needham, Mary Katherine Saratsiotis
March 30: Joan Cabral, Mikey Cantrell, Lucas Lekas, Pete Tsamolias

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:

* **Congratulations** to Jace Johnson on the occasion of his Holy Baptism yesterday, Saturday, March 23. God grant him many years and salvation in His Holy Name! Jace's sponsor is Rene Esquivel and Jace received the name of George.

* The **Bookstore** is planning to be open this coming Wednesday, March 27th from 3:00 to 5:00pm. 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 Wednesdays. We will be discussing "Thirty Steps to Heaven." Please see the email that was sent or contact Fr. Theodore for more information.

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

* If you would like to participate in the 2024 **Paschal Lilies** Dedication "In Memory of" or "For the Health of", please see the link that was sent by email. You may also place your payment in the box located in the Narthex (please specify on the memo line Paschal Lilies Dedication). Deadline is Palm Sunday, April 28th. Names will be listed in the Pascha 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 Natalia. It is very simple and 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:** Please save the date for the next get-together taking place after the Salutations to the Theotokos on the evening of Friday, April 19.

* **Thank You, Ευχαριστούμε!** to our Greek School and the Holy Cross Youth for enriching us today with their program honoring Greek Independence Day!