



HOLY CROSS

GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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

Sunday, March 3, 2024

Sunday of the Prodigal Son

Sts. Eftropios, Kleonikos, and Vasiliskos

Eothinon/Orthros Gospel: Sixth (Luke 24:36-53)

Mode of the Week: Plagal of the Second/Πλ. του Δευτέρου

QR Codes (scan with smart phone for service texts)

Orthros



Divine Liturgy



Upcoming Schedule

<i>Today, March 3</i>	9:15am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy on the Sunday of the Prodigal Son Sunday School for the Youth following Holy Communion Coffee Fellowship in the Parish House after the Liturgy 12:45pm Adult Greek School/Youth and Young Adult Dance Practice
<i>Saturday, March 9</i>	8:30am Divine Liturgy and Memorial Service for the 1 st Saturday of the Souls 11:00am Greek Spring Fling (until 7:00pm)
<i>Sunday, March 10</i>	9:15am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy on Judgement Sunday (Meatfare/Απόκρεω) 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
<i>Wednesday, March 13</i>	5:45pm Vespers 6:30pm Adult Study Class: Orthodoxy 101 in the Library 7:30pm Choir Practice in the Church
<i>Friday, March 15</i>	5:00pm Holy Baptism of James Scarborough 6:30pm Fellowship: Movie and Pizza Night in the Parish House
<i>Saturday, March 16</i>	9:30am Divine Liturgy and Memorial Service on the 2 nd Saturday of the Souls 11:30am Youth Gathering: Activity TBA
<i>Sunday, March 17</i>	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
<i>Monday, March 18</i>	6:00pm Great Compline (Clean Monday/Beginning of Great and Holy Lent)
<i>Tuesday, March 19</i>	6:30pm Parish Council Meeting
<i>Wednesday, March 20</i>	5:45pm 9 th Hour and Pre-Sanctified Liturgy 7:00pm Light Lenten Meal and Spiritual Book Discussion in the Parish House
<i>Friday, March 22</i>	6:00pm Small Compline and the 1 st Salutations to the Theotokos
<i>Saturday, March 23</i>	9:30am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy and Memorial Service on the 3 rd Saturday of the Souls
<i>Sunday, March 24</i>	9:15am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy on the Sunday of Orthodoxy Procession of Holy Icons, Greek School Presentation, Fellowship

Upcoming Epistle Readers: (3/10) Aleca Hortman, Beth Zoumberis; (3/17) George Saratsiotis, Isabelle Saratsiotis
Upcoming PC Member On-Duty: (3/10) Maria Spicer; (3/17) Sarah Drakopoulos; (3/24) Melanie M.; (3/31) Gray Y.
Upcoming Ushers: (3/9) Cristina L.; (3/10) Cleo B., Charles G.; (3/13) David Z.; (3/16) Cheryl S., Erick S.
Upcoming Video Operators: (3/9) David N.; (3/10+3/16) Natalia S.; (3/17) Cristina L.; (3/18) David N.
Fellowship Hosts: (3/10) Helen Vardy; (3/17) Tassie Cantrell; (3/24) Maria Mahoney; (3/31) Presvytera Stacey

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

Σῶσον, Κύριε, τὸν λαόν σου καὶ
εὐλόγησον τὴν κληρονομίαν σου.

Στίχ. Πρὸς σέ, Κύριε, κεκράζομαι, ὁ
Θεός μου.

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Πρὸς Κορινθίους Α' Ἐπιστολῆς
Παύλου τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα.

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Ἀδελφοί, πάντα μοι ἔξεστιν, ἀλλ' οὐ πάντα συμφέρει· πάντα μοι ἔξεστιν, ἀλλ' οὐκ ἐγὼ ἐξουσιασθήσομαι ὑπότινος. Τὰ βρώματα τῆ κοιλία καὶ ἡ κοιλία τοῖς βρώμασιν· ὁ δὲ Θεὸς καὶ ταύτην καὶ ταῦτα καταργήσει. Τὸ δὲ σῶμα οὐ τῆ πορνεία, ἀλλὰ τῷ Κυρίῳ, καὶ ὁ Κύριος τῷ σώματι· ὁ δὲ Θεὸς καὶ τὸν Κύριον ἡγείρε καὶ ἡμᾶς ἐξεγερεῖ διὰ τῆς δυνάμεως αὐτοῦ. Οὐκ οἴδατε ὅτι τὰ σώματα ὑμῶν μέλη Χριστοῦ ἐστίν; Ἄρα οὖν τὰ μέλη τοῦ Χριστοῦ ποιήσω πόρνης μέλη; Μὴ γένοιτο. Ἡ οὐκ οἴδατε ὅτι ὁ κολλώμενος τῆ πόρνη ἐν σῶμά ἐστιν; Ἔσονται γάρ, φησίν, οἱ δύο εἰς σάρκα μίαν· ὁ δὲ κολλώμενος τῷ Κυρίῳ ἐν πνευμά ἐστι. φεύγετε τὴν πορνείαν. Πᾶν ἀμάρτημα ὃ ἐὰν ποιήσῃ ἄνθρωπος ἐκτὸς τοῦ σώματός ἐστιν· ὁ δὲ πορνεύων εἰς τὸ ἴδιον σῶμα ἀμαρτάνει. Ἡ οὐκ οἴδατε ὅτι τὸ σῶμα ὑμῶν ναὸς τοῦ ἐν ὑμῖν Ἁγίου Πνεύματός ἐστιν, οὗ ἔχετε ἀπὸ Θεοῦ, καὶ οὐκ ἐστὲ ἑαυτῶν; ἠγοράσθητε γὰρ τιμῆς· δοξάσατε δὴ τὸν Θεὸν ἐν τῷ σώματι ὑμῶν καὶ ἐν τῷ πνεύματι ὑμῶν, ἅτινά ἐστι τοῦ Θεοῦ.

*O Lord, save Your people, and bless
Your inheritance.*

*Verse: To You, O Lord, I cry; O my
God. (Psalm 27)*

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*The reading is from Paul's First Letter
to the Corinthians. (6:12-20)*

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Brethren, “all things are lawful for me,” but not all things are helpful. “All things are lawful for me,” but I will not be enslaved by anything. “Food is meant for the stomach and the stomach for food” – and God will destroy both one and the other. The body is not meant for immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. And God raised the Lord and will also raise us up by his power. Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I therefore take the members of Christ and make them members of a prostitute? Never! Do you not know that he who joins himself to a prostitute becomes one body with her? For, as it is written, “The two shall become one flesh.” But he who is united to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. Shun immorality. Every other sin which a man commits is outside the body; but the immoral man sins against his own body. Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God? You are not your own; you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body and in your spirit which belong to God.

The Holy Gospel Reading according to St. Luke (15:11-32)

Sunday of the Prodigal Son

Εἶπεν ὁ Κύριος τὴν παραβολὴν ταύτην· Ἄνθρωπός τις εἶχε δύο υἱούς. καὶ εἶπεν ὁ νεώτερος αὐτῶν τῷ πατρὶ· πάτερ, δός μοι τὸ ἐπιβάλλον μέρος τῆς οὐσίας. καὶ διεῖλεν αὐτοῖς τὸν βίον. καὶ μετ' οὐ πολλὰς ἡμέρας συναγαγὼν ἅπαντα ὁ νεώτερος υἱὸς ἀπεδήμησεν εἰς χώραν μακράν, καὶ ἐκεῖ διεσκόρπισεν τὴν οὐσίαν αὐτοῦ ζῶν ἀσώτως. δαπανήσαντος δὲ αὐτοῦ πάντα ἐγένετο λιμὸς ἰσχυρὰ κατὰ τὴν χώραν ἐκείνην, καὶ αὐτὸς ἤρξατο ὑστερεῖσθαι. καὶ πορευθεὶς ἐκολλήθη ἐνὶ τῶν πολιτῶν τῆς χώρας ἐκείνης, καὶ ἔπεμψεν αὐτὸν εἰς τοὺς ἀγρούς αὐτοῦ βόσκειν χοίρους· καὶ ἐπεθύμει γεμίσει τὴν κοιλίαν αὐτοῦ ἀπὸ τῶν κερατίων ὧν ἦσθιον οἱ χοῖροι, καὶ οὐδεὶς ἐδίδου αὐτῷ. εἰς ἑαυτὸν δὲ ἐλθὼν εἶπε· πόσοι μίσθιοι τοῦ πατρός μου περισσεύουσιν ἄρτων, ἐγὼ δὲ λιμῷ ὄδε ἀπόλλυμαι! ἀναστὰς πορεύσομαι πρὸς τὸν πατέρα μου καὶ ἐρῶ αὐτῷ· πάτερ, ἡμάρτον εἰς τὸν οὐρανὸν καὶ ἐνώπιόν σου· οὐκέτι εἰμὶ ἄξιος κληθῆναι υἱὸς σου· ποιήσόν με ὡς ἓνα τῶν μισθίων σου. καὶ ἀναστὰς ἦλθε πρὸς τὸν πατέρα ἑαυτοῦ. ἐτι δὲ αὐτοῦ μακρὰν ἀπέχοντος εἶδεν αὐτὸν ὁ πατήρ αὐτοῦ καὶ ἐσπλαγχνίσθη, καὶ δραμῶν ἐπέπεσεν ἐπὶ τὸν τράχηλον αὐτοῦ καὶ κατεφίλησεν αὐτόν. εἶπε δὲ αὐτῷ ὁ υἱός· πάτερ, ἡμάρτον εἰς τὸν οὐρανὸν καὶ ἐνώπιόν σου, καὶ οὐκέτι εἰμὶ ἄξιος κληθῆναι υἱός σου. εἶπε δὲ ὁ πατήρ πρὸς τοὺς δούλους αὐτοῦ· ἐξενέγκατε τὴν στολὴν τὴν πρώτην καὶ ἐνδύσατε αὐτόν, καὶ δότε δακτύλιον εἰς τὴν χεῖρα αὐτοῦ καὶ ὑποδήματα εἰς τοὺς πόδας, καὶ ἐνέγκαντες τὸν μόσχον τὸν σιτευτὸν θύσατε, καὶ φαγόντες εὐφρανθῶμεν, ὅτι οὗτος ὁ υἱός μου νεκρὸς ἦν καὶ ἀνέζησεν, καὶ ἀπολωλὸς ἦν καὶ εὗρέθη. καὶ ἤρξαντο εὐφραίνεσθαι. Ἦν δὲ ὁ υἱὸς αὐτοῦ ὁ πρεσβύτερος ἐν ἀγρῷ· καὶ ὡς ἐρχόμενος ἠγγίσε τῆ οἰκίᾳ, ἤκουσε συμφωνίας καὶ χορῶν, καὶ προσκαλεσάμενος ἓνα τῶν παιδῶν ἐπυνθάνετο τί εἴη ταῦτα. ὁ δὲ εἶπεν αὐτῷ ὅτι ὁ ἀδελφός σου ἦκε, καὶ ἔθυσεν ὁ πατήρ σου τὸν μόσχον τὸν σιτευτὸν, ὅτι ὑγιαίνοντα αὐτὸν ἀπέλαβεν. ὠργίσθη δὲ καὶ οὐκ ἠθέλην εἰσελθεῖν. ὁ δὲ ἀποκριθεὶς εἶπε τῷ πατρὶ· ἰδοὺ τοσαῦτα ἔτη δουλεύω σοι καὶ οὐδέποτε ἐντολήν σου παρήλαον, καὶ ἐμοὶ οὐδέποτε ἔδωκας ἔριπον ἵνα μετὰ τῶν φίλων μου εὐφρανθῶ· ὅτε δὲ ὁ υἱός σου οὗτος, ὁ καταφαγὼν σου τὸν βίον μετὰ πορνῶν, ἦλθεν, ἔθυσας αὐτῷ τὸν μόσχον τὸν σιτευτόν. ὁ δὲ εἶπεν αὐτῷ· τέκνον, σὺ πάντοτε μετ' ἐμοῦ εἶ, καὶ πάντα τὰ ἐμὰ σὰ ἐστίν· εὐφρανθῆναι δὲ καὶ χαρῆναι ἔδει, ὅτι ὁ ἀδελφός σου οὗτος νεκρὸς ἦν καὶ ἀνέζησε, καὶ ἀπολωλὸς ἦν καὶ εὗρέθη.

The Lord said this parable: “There was a man who had two sons; and the younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the property that falls to me.’ And he divided his living between them. Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took his journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in loose living. And when he had spent everything, a great famine arose in that country, and he began to be in want. So he went and joined himself to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would gladly have fed on the pods that the swine ate; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have bread enough and to spare, but I perish here with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me as one of your hired servants.’ And he arose and came to his father. But while he was yet at a distance, his father saw him and had compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ But the father said to his servants, ‘Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet; and bring the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and make merry; for this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.’ And they began to make merry. Now his elder son was in the field; and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. And he called one of the servants and asked what this meant. And he said to him, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has received him safe and sound.’ But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, but he answered his father, ‘Lo, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command; yet you never gave me a kid, that I might make merry with my friends. But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your living with harlots, you killed for him the fatted calf!’ And he said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. It was fitting to make merry and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.’”

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 March 3, 2024

Ushers on Duty: Sarah Drakopoulos, Jim Lekas

Video: David Z.

Altar Servers: All Adult/Youth Servers

Epistle Readers: Kostas Iakovidis (Greek); Rene Esquivel (English)

Fellowship Host (Thank You!): Rodica Cazacu

PC Member On-Duty: John Apostolou



Today our Holy Orthodox Church commemorates:

+ Sunday of the Prodigal Son

Through the parable of today's Gospel, our Saviour has set forth three things for us: the condition of the sinner, the rule of repentance, and the greatness of God's compassion. The divine Fathers have put this reading the week after the parable of the Publican and Pharisee so that, seeing in the person of the Prodigal Son our own wretched condition -- inasmuch as we are sunken in sin, far from God and His Mysteries -- we might at last come to our senses and make haste to return to Him by repentance during these holy days of the Fast. Furthermore, those who have wrought many great iniquities, and have persisted in them for a long time, oftentimes fall into despair, thinking that there can no longer be any forgiveness for them; and so being without hope, they fall every day into the same and even worse iniquities. Therefore, the divine Fathers, that they might root out the passion of despair from the hearts of such people, and rouse them to the deeds of virtue, have set the present parable at the forecourts of the Fast, to show them the surpassing goodness of God's compassion, and to teach them that there is no sin -- no matter how great it may be -- that can overcome at any time His love for man.

+ The Holy Martyrs Eftropios, Kleonikos, and Vasiliskos (+305)

The Martyrs, who were from Amasia, were fellow soldiers and kinsmen of Saint Theodore the Tyro (see Feb. 17). They were betrayed to the Governor Asclepiodotus as Christians, during the reign of Diocletian. After many torments, Eftropios and Kleonikos were crucified; Vasiliskos was not slain together with them, but was shut up in prison, in the hope that with time he might change his mind and sacrifice to the idols. He was beheaded on May 22.

+ The Holy Hieromartyr Theodoritos, Presbyter of Antioch (+363)

+ The Devout Zeno and Zoilos

+ The Devout Piamon the Virgin (+337)

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 (Αγγελικαὶ δυνάμεις, Plagal of the Second Mode):

When the angelic powers appeared at Your tomb, the soldiers guarding it feared and became as dead. And standing by the sepulcher was Mary, who was seeking Your immaculate body. Unassailed by Hades, You divested it of spoils. Then You met the Virgin. You granted life. O Lord, risen from the dead, glory to You! (Sung before and after the Small Entrance. Greek text found in large hymnal on pg. 118)

- 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 Prodigal Son (Τῆς πατρῶας, Third Mode):

Irevolted senselessly * out of Your fatherly glory; * I have squandered sinfully * all of the riches You gave me.* Hence to You, using the Prodigal's words, I cry out,* I have sinned before You, merciful loving Father.* O receive me in repentance, * I pray, and treat me * as one of Your hired hands. (Greek text found in large hymnal on pg. 256)

Guidance, Prayer Requests, and Announcements

This Week's Daily

Scripture Readings and Fasting Guidance:

Sunday (3/3—No Fasting): Luke 24:36-53; I Corinthians 6:12-20; Luke 15:11-32

Monday (3/4—No Fasting): I John 2:18-29, 3:1-8; Mark 11:1-11

Tuesday (3/5—No Fasting): I John 3:9-22; Mark 14:10-42

Wednesday (3/6—Strict Fast): I John 3:21-24; 4:1-11

Thursday (3/7—No Fasting): I John 4:20-21, 5:1-21; Mark 15:1-15

Friday (3/8—Wine+Oil): Hebrews 12:1-10; Matthew 20:1-16

Saturday (3/9—Saturday of the Souls—No Fasting): I Thessalonians 4:13-17; Luke 21:8-9, 25-27, 33-36

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

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:

St. Gregory the Theologian on the mystery of death and relevant to the theme of the Saturday of the Souls this coming week: "We needed an Incarnate God, a God put to death, that we might live. We were put to death together with Him, that we might be cleansed; we rose again with Him because we were put to death with Him; we were glorified with Him, because we rose again with Him."

Upcoming Celebrations This Week

Name Days—Chronia Polla, Many Years!
March 2: Chad Ridley

Birthdays—Happy Birthday!
None in the Records

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:

* Fr. Theodore will be out of town through Thursday, March 7. We thank **Fr. Ken Anthony** from Annunciation Cathedral in Atlanta for leading the Divine Services today!

* The **Introduction to the Orthodox Church** class will not be taking place this week but will resume next Wednesday, March 13 with the conclusionary session.

*The **Bookstore** will not be open this coming Wednesday, March 6.

***GREEK SPRING FLING** will be this coming Saturday, March 9th. We are asking all GOYANS, YA & NSYA to help set -up this 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 today after Sunday School and will take place twice 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>

* **Youth:** Handmaidens meeting for the female youth of our parish will take place during the General Assembly on Sunday, March 10. Please be sure to save the date for the next youth even which will be on Saturday, March 16 after the Divine Liturgy for the Saturday of the Souls. The activity will be announced soon!