



HOLY CROSS

GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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

Sunday, May 5, 2024

Great and Holy PASCHA

The Holy Great Martyr Irene

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

Mode of the Week: Festal / της εορτής

QR Codes (scan with smart phone for service texts)

Orthros



Divine Liturgy



Upcoming Schedule

<i>Tonight/Saturday, May 4</i>	11:00pm Service of the Resurrection for PASCHA (until approx. 1:30am)
<i>Sunday, May 5</i>	12:00pm Agape Vespers on Great and Holy PASCHA 1:00pm Easter Egg Hunt and Pascha Picnic
<i>Monday, May 6</i>	9:30am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy for Bright Monday/Feast of St. George
<i>Wednesday, May 8</i>	5:45pm Vespers 6:30pm Adult Study Class in the Library
<i>Thursday, May 9</i>	5:00pm Great Vespers for the Life-Giving Font of the Theotokos
<i>Friday, May 10</i>	St. Photios/St. Augustine/OCMC Pilgrimage (through Sunday)
<i>Sunday, May 12</i>	9:15am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy on the Sunday of Thomas/Anti-Pascha (Mother's Day) Sunday School for the Youth after Holy Communion Coffee Fellowship after the Divine Liturgy 12:45pm Adult Greek School/Youth Greek Dance
<i>Wednesday, May 15</i>	5:45pm Vespers 6:30pm Adult Study Class in the Library
<i>Saturday, May 18</i>	5:00pm Great Vespers
<i>Sunday, May 19</i>	9:15am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy on the Sunday of the Myrrh-bearing Women Sunday School for the Youth after Holy Communion (last Sunday for the school year) Coffee Fellowship in the Parish House after the Liturgy 12:45pm Youth Greek School/Adult Bible Study 2:00pm Youth/GOYA Outing
<i>Tuesday, May 21</i>	9:30am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy on the Feast of Sts. Constantine and Helen
<i>Wednesday, May 22</i>	5:45pm Vespers 6:30pm Adult Study Class in the Library
<i>Sunday, May 26</i>	9:15am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy on the Sunday of the Paralytic Coffee Fellowship in the Parish House after the Liturgy 12:45pm Adult Greek School/Youth Greek Dance
<i>Monday, May 27</i>	Memorial Day — Office Closed

Upcoming Epistle Readers: (5/12) George Saratsiotis, Panos Drakopoulos; (5/19) Kostas Iakovidis, Cleo Bennette
Upcoming PC Member On-Duty: (5/12) Melanie Moye; (5/19) Gray Yates; (5/26) Natalia Saratsiotis
Upcoming Ushers: (5/6) Norm+Eleni A.; (5/8) David Z.; (5/12) Cleo B., Melanie M.; (5/15) Melanie M.
Upcoming Video Operators: (5/6) Joanna P.; (5/12) Natalia S.; (5/19) Cristina L.; (5/26) Gray Y./David N.
Fellowship Hosts: (5/12) Maria Bronisevsky; (5/19) Sarah Drakopoulos; (5/26) Maria McCluskey

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

*Αὕτη ἡ ἡμέρα, ἣν ἐποίησεν ὁ Κύριος·
ἀγαλλιασώμεθα καὶ εὐφρανθῶμεν ἐν
αὐτῇ.*

*Στίχ. Ἐξομολογεῖσθε τῷ Κυρίῳ, ὅτι
ἀγαθός, ὅτι εἰς τὸν αἰῶνα τὸ ἔλεος αὐτοῦ.*

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Πράξεων τῶν Ἀποστόλων τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα.

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Τὸν μὲν πρῶτον λόγον ἐποίησάμην περὶ πάντων, ὦ Θεόφιλε, ὧν ἤρξατο ὁ Ἰησοῦς ποιεῖν τε καὶ διδάσκειν ἄχρι ἧς ἡμέρας ἐντειλάμενος τοῖς ἀποστόλοις διὰ πνεύματος ἁγίου οὓς ἐξελέξατο ἀνελήφθη· οἷς καὶ παρέστησεν ἑαυτὸν ζῶντα μετὰ τὸ παθεῖν αὐτὸν ἐν πολλοῖς τεκμηρίοις, δι' ἡμερῶν τεσσαράκοντα ὀπτανόμενος αὐτοῖς καὶ λέγων τὰ περὶ τῆς βασιλείας τοῦ Θεοῦ. Καὶ συναλιζόμενος παρήγγειλεν αὐτοῖς ἀπὸ Ἱεροσολύμων μὴ χωρίζεσθαι, ἀλλὰ περιμένειν τὴν ἐπαγγελίαν τοῦ πατρὸς ἣν ἠκούσατέ μου· ὅτι Ἰωάννης μὲν ἐβάπτισεν ὕδατι, ὑμεῖς δὲ ἐν πνεύματι βαπτισθήσεσθε ἁγίῳ οὐ μετὰ πολλὰς ταύτας ἡμέρας. Οἱ μὲν οὖν συνελθόντες ἠρώτων αὐτὸν λέγοντες, Κύριε, εἰ ἐν τῷ χρόνῳ τούτῳ ἀποκαθιστάνεις τὴν βασιλείαν τῷ Ἰσραὴλ; εἶπεν δὲ πρὸς αὐτούς, Οὐχ ὑμῶν ἐστὶν γινῶναι χρόνους ἢ καιροὺς οὓς ὁ πατὴρ ἔθετο ἐν τῇ ἰδίᾳ ἐξουσίᾳ· ἀλλὰ λήψεσθε δύναμιν ἐπελθόντος τοῦ ἁγίου πνεύματος ἐφ' ὑμᾶς, καὶ ἔσεσθέ μου μάρτυρες ἐν τε Ἱερουσαλὴμ καὶ ἐν πάσῃ τῇ Ἰουδαίᾳ καὶ Σαμαρείᾳ καὶ ἕως ἐσχάτου τῆς γῆς.

*This is the day the Lord made; let us
greatly rejoice and be glad therein.*

*Verse: Give thanks to the Lord, for
He is good; for His mercy endures
forever. (Ps. 117)*

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*The reading is from the Acts of the
Apostles. (1:1-8)*

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In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commandment through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. To them he presented himself alive after his passion by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days, and speaking of the kingdom of God. And while staying with them he charged them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, "you heard from me, for John baptized with water, but before many days you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit." So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom of Israel?" He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has fixed by his own authority. But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth."

The Holy Gospel Reading according to St. John (1:1-17)

Great and Holy Pascha

Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ Λόγος, καὶ ὁ Λόγος ἦν πρὸς τὸν Θεόν, καὶ Θεὸς ἦν ὁ Λόγος. Οὗτος ἦν ἐν ἀρχῇ πρὸς τὸν Θεόν. πάντα δι' αὐτοῦ ἐγένετο, καὶ χωρὶς αὐτοῦ ἐγένετο οὐδὲ ἓν ὃ γέγονεν. ἐν αὐτῷ ζωὴ ἦν, καὶ ἡ ζωὴ ἦν τὸ φῶς τῶν ἀνθρώπων. καὶ τὸ φῶς ἐν τῇ σκοτίᾳ φαίνει, καὶ ἡ σκοτία αὐτὸ οὐ κατέλαβεν. Ἐγένετο ἄνθρωπος ἀπεσταλμένος παρὰ Θεοῦ, ὄνομα αὐτῷ Ἰωάννης· οὗτος ἦλθεν εἰς μαρτυρίαν, ἵνα μαρτυρήσῃ περὶ τοῦ φωτός, ἵνα πάντες πιστεύσωσιν δι' αὐτοῦ. οὐκ ἦν ἐκεῖνος τὸ φῶς, ἀλλ' ἵνα μαρτυρήσῃ περὶ τοῦ φωτός. Ἦν τὸ φῶς τὸ ἀληθινόν, ὃ φωτίζει πάντα ἄνθρωπον, ἐρχόμενον εἰς τὸν κόσμον. ἐν τῷ κόσμῳ ἦν, καὶ ὁ κόσμος δι' αὐτοῦ ἐγένετο, καὶ ὁ κόσμος αὐτὸν οὐκ ἔγνω. εἰς τὰ ἴδια ἦλθεν, καὶ οἱ ἴδιοι αὐτὸν οὐ παρέλαβον. ὅσοι δὲ ἔλαβον αὐτόν, ἔδωκεν αὐτοῖς ἐξουσίαν τέκνα Θεοῦ γενέσθαι, τοῖς πιστεύουσιν εἰς τὸ ὄνομα αὐτοῦ, οἱ οὐκ ἐξ αἱμάτων, οὐδὲ ἐκ θελήματος σαρκός, οὐδὲ ἐκ θελήματος ἀνδρός, ἀλλ' ἐκ Θεοῦ ἐγεννήθησαν. Καὶ ὁ Λόγος σὰρξ ἐγένετο καὶ ἐσκήνωσεν ἐν ἡμῖν, καὶ ἐθεασάμεθα τὴν δόξαν αὐτοῦ, δόξαν ὡς μονογενοῦς παρὰ πατρός, πλήρης χάριτος καὶ ἀληθείας. Ἰωάννης μαρτυρεῖ περὶ αὐτοῦ καὶ κέκραγεν λέγων· Οὗτος ἦν ὃν εἶπον, Ὁ ὀπίσω μου ἐρχόμενος ἔμπροσθέν μου γέγονεν, ὅτι πρῶτός μου ἦν. Καὶ ἐκ τοῦ πληρώματος αὐτοῦ ἡμεῖς πάντες ἐλάβομεν, καὶ χάριν ἀντὶ χάριτος· ὅτι ὁ νόμος διὰ Μωϋσέως ἐδόθη, ἡ χάρις καὶ ἡ ἀλήθεια διὰ Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ ἐγένετο.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God; all things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came for testimony, to bear witness to the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness to the light. The true light that enlightens every man was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world knew him not. He came to his own home, and his own people received him not. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God; who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father. (John bore witness to him, and cried, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks before me, for he was before me.' ") And from his fullness have we all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

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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 May 5, 2024

Ushers on Duty: Sarah Drakopoulos, Erick and Cheryl Schwartzkopf

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

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

Fellowship Host (Thank You!): Pascha Picnic

PC Member On-Duty: Sarah Drakopoulos



Today our Holy Orthodox Church commemorates:

+ Great and Holy PASCHA

The resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead is the center of the Christian faith. Saint Paul says that if Christ is not raised from the dead, then our preaching and faith are in vain (1 Cor. 15:14). Indeed, without the resurrection there would be no Christian preaching or faith. The disciples of Christ would have remained the broken and hopeless band which the Gospel of John describes as being in hiding behind locked doors for fear of the Jews. They went nowhere and preached nothing until they met the risen Christ, the doors being shut (John 20: 19). Then they touched the wounds of the nails and the spear; they ate and drank with Him. The resurrection became the basis of everything they said and did (Acts 2-4): "... for a spirit has not flesh and bones as you see that I have" (Luke 24:39). Pascha is the inauguration of a new age. It reveals the mystery of the eighth day. It is our taste, in this age, of the new and unending day of the Kingdom of God. Something of this new and unending day is conveyed to us in the length of the paschal services, in the repetition of the paschal order for all the services of Bright Week, and in the special paschal features retained in the services for the forty days until Ascension. Together they comprise the symbol of the new time in which the Church lives and toward which she ever draws the faithful, from one degree of glory to another.

+ The Holy Great Martyr Irene of Thessaloniki (+4th Century)

+ The Holy Martyrs Neophytus, Gaius, and Gaianus

+ The Holy Monastic Martyr Ephrem the New of Nea Makri (+1426)

+ Our Devout Father Euthymios the Wonder-worker, Bishop of Madytos on the Hellespont (+990)

+ Our Devout Father Gibrian of Ireland (+509)

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 Resurrection (Χριστός ανέστη, Plagal 1st Mode):

Χριστός ανέστη ἐκ νεκρῶν, θανάτῳ θάνατον πατήσας, καὶ τοῖς ἐν τοῖς μνήμασι, ζῶν ἡρισάμενος.

Christ is risen from the dead, by death trampling down upon death, and to those in the tombs He has granted life. (Sung before and after the Small Entrance)

- Special Entrance Hymn (Ἐν ἐκκλησίαις, 2nd Mode):

Bless God in the churches, the Lord from the fountains of Israel. Save us, O Son of God, risen from the dead. We sing to You, Alleluia.

- Hypakoe of Pascha (Προλαβοῦσαι τον ὄρθρον, 4th Mode):

When the women with Mary had come before dawn, and they found that the stone had been rolled away from the sepulcher, they heard from the Angel, "Why do you seek among the dead, as a mortal man, the One who exists in everlasting light? See the grave clothes in the sepulcher. Run and proclaim to the world that the Lord has risen and put death to death; for He is the Son of God who saves the human race."

- The Hymn of the Holy Cross is not sung today due to the feast.

- The Kontakion of Pascha (Εἰ καὶ ἐν τᾶφῳ, Plagal 4th Mode):

Though You went down into the tomb, O Immortal One, yet You brought down the dominion of Hades; and You rose as the victor, O Christ our God; and You called out "Rejoice" to the Myrrh-bearing women, and gave peace to Your Apostles, O Lord who to the fallen grant resurrection. (Greek text found in large hymnal on pg. 274)

Guidance, Prayer Requests, and Announcements

This Week's Daily

Scripture Readings and Fasting Guidance:

PASCHA (5/5—No Fasting): Mark 16:1-8; Acts 1:1-8; John 1:1-17

Bright Monday/St. George (5/6—No Fasting):

Luke 21:12-19; Acts 12:1-11; John 1:18-28

Bright Tuesday (5/7—No Fasting): Acts 2:14-21;

Luke 24:12-35

Bright Wednesday (5/8—No Fasting): Acts

2:22-38; John 1:35-51

Bright Thursday (5/9—No Fasting): Acts 2:38-43;

John 3:1-15

Bright Friday (5/10—Life-Giving Font— No

Fasting): Acts 3:1-8; John 2:12-22

Bright Saturday (5/11—No Fasting): Acts 3:11-16;

John 3:22-33

Prayer Requests:

Fr. Symeon (mission priest supported by our parish), Panteleimon, Michael, Kassiani, 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, Stelianos, Brian, Vassilios, Bessie, Katerina, Link, Bill, Virginia, Karl, Colin, Mitch, Rinne, Michael, Christian

Prayers for those recently reposed:

Audrey (+April 2), Kathy (+April 26), Mary (+May 3)

Prayers for expecting mothers:

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

Weekly Wisdom of the Fathers:

St. Meletios of Sardis (+180) on our Lord's Pascha: "What is the Pascha? It obtains its name from its characteristic: from suffer (pathein) comes suffering (paschein). Learn therefore who is the Suffering One, and who shares the suffering of the Suffering One, and why the Lord is present on the earth to clothe Himself with the Suffering One and carry Him off to the heights of heaven. It is He that delivered us from slavery to liberty, from darkness to light, from death to life, from tyranny to eternal royalty; and made us a new priesthood and an eternal people personal to Him. He is the Pascha of our salvation."

Upcoming Celebrations This Week

Name Days—Chronia Polla, Many Years!

Pascha: Tassie Cantrell, Chloe Goss, Stacey Goss
Bright Monday (St. George): George Cazacu, Benjamin George Davis, George Gordy, Norberto Hernandez, George Iakovidis, Jace "George" Johnson, Georgia Karras, George Lane, Tennessee George Morris, George Saratsiotis, Georgia Saratsiotis, George Stefanis, Richard George Stewart, Georgios Tarasidis

May 11: Amanda "Isidora" Lord

Birthdays—Happy Birthday!

May 5: Theo Drakopoulos

May 6: Paul Vrahiotes

May 8: Alyssa Syribeys

May 10: Rebekah Bradford

Anniversaries—Congratulations!

May 6: Beth and David Zoumberis

May 10: Marianna and Justin Lane

(If you have a celebration that did not make it into the bulletin, please e-mail Fr. Theodore!)

Announcements:

* **As a reminder, there is no kneeling in the Church from the period of Pascha to Pentecost according to the ancient canons.**

* **Pascha/Easter:** Easter Egg Hunt and Pascha Luncheon later today after the Agape Vespers. Please plan on attending so that we can celebrate the greatest day of the Church year together as a Church Family!

* **Great Vespers** have been added on this coming Thursday evening to honor the Life-giving Spring of the Theotokos. Please attend! And if you are able, please plan on staying afterwards to pick up the bay leaves, flowers, etc from the celebration of Pascha and Bright Week.

* The **Pilgrimage** to St. Photios Shrine/St. Augustine/OCMC is taking place this coming weekend, Friday, May 10 to Sunday, May 12. If you are interested in attending, please feel free to book your own arrangements and contact Presvytera Stacey for more information about the trip!

* **The Lenten Book Discussion** after the Pre-Sanctified Liturgy has finished for this Lenten period, though we will discuss the last chapters/steps in the book on these Wednesdays following Pascha at 6:30pm in the Library.

* Philoptochos and Youth are teaming up for a **Donation Drive** to benefit the Rescue Mission of Georgia. Please bring your donations (needs are listed in the flyer sent by email) to drop in the box in the Narthex through today, Pascha, May 5. The donation truck will come at the end of the Agape Vespers to collect the donations.

CHRIST IS RISEN! TRULY HE IS RISEN!

ΧΡΙΣΤΟΣ ΑΝΕΣΤΗ! ΑΛΗΘΩΣ ΑΝΕΣΤΗ!