



HOLY CROSS

GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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

Sunday, June 16, 2024

Sunday of the Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council
 St. Tikhon, Bishop of Amathus

Eothinon/Orthros Gospel: Tenth (John 21:1-14)

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

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| <i>Today, June 16</i> | 9:15am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy on the Sunday of the Holy Fathers Coffee and Fellowship (for Father's Day!) after the Liturgy in the Parish House |
| <i>Tuesday, June 18</i> | 5:30pm Parish Council Meeting 7:00pm Cross Dive Meeting (in the Parish House) |
| <i>Wednesday, June 19</i> | 5:45pm Vespers 6:30pm Byzantine Chant Class (in the Chapel) |
| <i>Friday, June 21</i> | 4:00pm Youth Outing to Rigby's (until 6:00pm) |
| <i>Saturday, June 22</i> | 9:30am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy and Memorial Service on the Saturday of Souls 3:30pm Catechumen Class (for newcomers and parishioners) 5:00pm Great Vespers |
| <i>Sunday, June 23</i> | 9:15am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy on Holy Pentecost 12:00pm Kneeling Vespers of Pentecost Coffee Fellowship in the Parish House after the Vespers 1:30pm Greek Dance in the Courtyard |
| <i>Monday, June 24</i> | 6:00pm Divine Liturgy on the Monday of the Holy Spirit |
| <i>Wednesday, June 26</i> | 5:45pm Vespers 6:30pm Byzantine Chant Class (in the Chapel) |
| <i>Saturday, June 29</i> | 9:30am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy on the Feast Day of Saints Peter and Paul |
| <i>Sunday, June 30</i> | 9:15am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy on the Sunday of All Saints and the Synaxis of the Twelve Apostles Coffee and Fellowship after the Liturgy in the Parish House 12:45pm Bible Study |
| <i>Thursday, July 4</i> | Independence Day—Office Closed |
| <i>Sunday, July 7</i> | 9:15am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy on the 2 nd Sunday of Matthew 40-day Memorial for Vassilios Troupos at the end of the Liturgy Doxology for Independence Day at the end of the Liturgy Coffee and Fellowship in the Parish House after the Liturgy 12:45pm Greek Dance in the Courtyard |

Upcoming Epistle Readers: (6/23) Kostas Iakovidis, James Scarborough; (6/30) Pete Tsamolias, Nadia Cazacu
Upcoming PC Member On-Duty: (6/23) Sarah Drakopoulos; (6/30) Melanie Moye; (7/7) Gray Yates; (7/14) Natalia
Upcoming Ushers: (6/19) James S.; (6/22am) James S.; (6/22pm) Eleni+Norm A.; (6/23) Charles G., Jim L.
Upcoming Video Operators: (6/22am) Cristina L.; (6/22pm) David N.; (6/23) Cristina L.; (6/29+6/30) David Z.
Fellowship Hosts: (6/23) Cristina Lekas; (6/30) James Scarborough; (7/7) Helen Troupos/Memorial

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

*Εὐλογητὸς εἶ Κύριε ὁ Θεὸς τῶν πατέρων
ἡμῶν.*

*Στίχ. Ὅτι δίκαιος εἶ ἐπὶ πᾶσιν, οἷς ἐποίησας
ἡμῖν.*

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Πράξεων τῶν Ἀποστόλων τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα.

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Ἐν ταῖς ἡμέραις ἐκεῖναις, ἔκρινεν ὁ Παῦλος παραπλεῦσαι τὴν Ἐφεσον, ὅπως μὴ γένηται αὐτῷ χρονοτριβῆσαι ἐν τῇ Ἀσίᾳ· ἐσπευδε γάρ, εἰ δυνατόν ἦν αὐτῷ, τὴν ἡμέραν τῆς πεντηκοστῆς γενέσθαι εἰς Ἱεροσόλυμα. Ἀπὸ δὲ τῆς Μιλήτου πέμψας εἰς Ἐφεσον μετεκαλέσατο τοὺς πρεσβυτέρους τῆς ἐκκλησίας. ὡς δὲ παρεγένοντο πρὸς αὐτόν, εἶπεν αὐτοῖς· προσέχετε οὖν ἑαυτοῖς καὶ παντὶ τῷ ποιμνίῳ ἐν ᾧ ὑμᾶς τὸ Πνεῦμα τὸ Ἅγιον ἔθετο ἐπισκόπους, ποιμαίνειν τὴν ἐκκλησίαν τοῦ Κυρίου καὶ Θεοῦ, ἣν περιποιήσατο διὰ τοῦ ἰδίου αἵματος. ἐγὼ γὰρ οἶδα τοῦτο, ὅτι εἰσελεύσονται μετὰ τὴν ἀφίξίν μου λύκοι βαρεῖς εἰς ὑμᾶς μὴ φειδόμενοι τοῦ ποιμνίου· καὶ ἐξ ὑμῶν αὐτῶν ἀναστήσονται ἄνδρες λαλοῦντες διεστραμμένα τοῦ ἀποσπᾶν τοὺς μαθητὰς ὀπίσω αὐτῶν. διὸ γρηγορεῖτε, μνημονεύοντες ὅτι τριετίαν νύκτα καὶ ἡμέραν οὐκ ἐπαυσάμην μετὰ δακρῦν νουθετῶν ἕνα ἕκαστον. καὶ τὰ νῦν παρατίθεμαι ὑμᾶς, ἀδελφοί, τῷ Θεῷ καὶ τῷ λόγῳ τῆς χάριτος αὐτοῦ τῷ δυναμένῳ ἐποικοδομῆσαι καὶ δοῦναι ὑμῖν κληρονομίαν ἐν τοῖς ἡγιασμένοις πᾶσιν. ἀργυρίου ἢ χρυσίου ἢ ἱματισμοῦ οὐδενὸς ἐπεθύμησα· αὐτοὶ γινώσκετε ὅτι ταῖς χρεῖαις μου καὶ τοῖς οὖσι μετ' ἐμοῦ ὑπηρετήσαν αἱ χεῖρες αὐταί. πάντα ὑπέδειξα ὑμῖν ὅτι οὕτω κοπιῶντας δεῖ ἀντιλαμβάνεσθαι τῶν ἀσθενούντων, μνημονεύειν τε τῶν λόγων τοῦ Κυρίου Ἰησοῦ, ὅτι αὐτὸς εἶπε· μακάριόν ἐστι μᾶλλον διδόναι ἢ λαμβάνειν. καὶ ταῦτα εἰπὼν, θεὶς τὰ γόνατα αὐτοῦ σὺν πᾶσιν αὐτοῖς προσηύξατο.

*Blessed are You, O Lord God of our
fathers.*

*Verse: For You are righteous in all You
did for us.*

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*The reading is from the Acts of
the Apostles. (20:16-18, 28-36)*

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In those days, Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus, so that he might not have to spend time in Asia; for he was hastening to be at Jerusalem, if possible, on the day of Pentecost. And from Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called to him the elders of the church. And when they came to him, he said to them: “Take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of the Lord and God, which he obtained with his own blood. I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves will arise men speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them. Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish every one with tears. And now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified. I coveted no one’s silver or gold or apparel. You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my necessities, and to those who were with me. In all things I have shown you that by so toiling one must help the weak, remembering the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, ‘it is more blessed to give than to receive.’” And when he had spoken thus, he knelt down and prayed with them all.

The Holy Gospel Reading according to St. John (17:1-13)

Sunday of the Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ ἐπάρας ὁ Ἰησοῦς τοὺς ὀφθαλμοὺς αὐτοῦ εἰς τὸν οὐρανὸν καὶ εἶπε· πάτερ, ἐλήλυθεν ἡ ὥρα· δόξασόν σου τὸν υἱόν, ἵνα καὶ ὁ υἱός σου δοξάσῃ σε, καθὼς ἔδωκας αὐτῷ ἐξουσίαν πάσης σαρκός, ἵνα πᾶν ὃ δέδωκας αὐτῷ δώσῃ αὐτοῖς ζωὴν αἰώνιον. αὕτη δὲ ἐστὶν ἡ αἰώνιος ζωὴ, ἵνα γινώσκωσί σε τὸν μόνον ἀληθινὸν Θεὸν καὶ ὃν ἀπέστειλας Ἰησοῦν Χριστόν. ἐγὼ σε ἐδόξασα ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς, τὸ ἔργον ἐτελείωσα ὃ δέδωκάς μοι ἵνα ποιήσω· καὶ νῦν δόξασόν με σύ, πάτερ, παρὰ σεαυτῷ τῇ δόξῃ ἣ εἶχον πρὸ τοῦ τὸν κόσμον εἶναι παρὰ σοί. Ἐφανέρωσά σου τὸ ὄνομα τοῖς ἀνθρώποις οὓς δέδωκάς μοι ἐκ τοῦ κόσμου. σοὶ ἦσαν καὶ ἐμοὶ αὐτοὺς δέδωκας, καὶ τὸν λόγον σου τετηρήκασι. νῦν ἔγνωκαν ὅτι πάντα ὅσα δέδωκάς μοι παρὰ σοῦ ἐστὶν· ὅτι τὰ ῥήματα ἃ δέδωκάς μοι δέδωκα αὐτοῖς, καὶ αὐτοὶ ἔλαβον, καὶ ἔγνωσαν ἀληθῶς ὅτι παρὰ σοῦ ἐξῆλθον, καὶ ἐπίστευσαν ὅτι σύ με ἀπέστειλας. Ἐγὼ περὶ αὐτῶν ἐρωτῶ· οὐ περὶ τοῦ κόσμου ἐρωτῶ, ἀλλὰ περὶ ὧν δέδωκάς μοι, ὅτι σοὶ εἰσι, καὶ τὰ ἐμὰ πάντα σὰ ἐστί καὶ τὰ σὰ ἐμὰ, καὶ δεδόξασμαι ἐν αὐτοῖς. καὶ οὐκέτι εἰμὶ ἐν τῷ κόσμῳ, καὶ οὗτοι ἐν τῷ κόσμῳ εἰσί, καὶ ἐγὼ πρὸς σὲ ἔρχομαι. πάτερ ἅγιε, τήρησον αὐτοὺς ἐν τῷ ὀνόματί σου ᾧ δέδωκάς μοι, ἵνα ὧσιν ἐν καθὼς ἡμεῖς. ὅτε ἤμην μετ' αὐτῶν ἐν τῷ κόσμῳ, ἐγὼ ἐτήρουν αὐτοὺς ἐν τῷ ὀνόματί σου· οὓς δέδωκάς μοι ἐφύλαξα, καὶ οὐδεὶς ἐξ αὐτῶν ἀπώλετο εἰ μὴ ὁ υἱὸς τῆς ἀπωλείας, ἵνα ἡ γραφὴ πληρωθῇ. νῦν δὲ πρὸς σὲ ἔρχομαι, καὶ ταῦτα λαλῶ ἐν τῷ κόσμῳ ἵνα ἔχωσι τὴν χαρὰν τὴν ἐμὴν πεπληρωμένην ἐν αὐτοῖς.

At that time, Jesus lifted up his eyes to heaven and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him power over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work which you gave me to do; and now, Father, you glorify me in your own presence with the glory which I had with you before the world was made. I have manifested your name to the men whom you gave me out of the world; yours they were, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything that you have given me is from you; for I have given them the words which you gave me, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you did send me. I am praying for them; I am not praying for the world but for those whom you have given me, for they are mine; all mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I am glorified in them. And now I am no more in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one. While I was with them, I kept them in your name, which you have given me; I have guarded them, and none of them is lost but the son of perdition, that the scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to you; and these things I speak in the world, that they may have my joy fulfilled in themselves.”

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 June 16, 2024

Ushers on Duty: Jim Lekas

Video: Cristina Lekas

Altar Servers: All Adult/Youth Servers

Epistle Readers: George Saratsiotis (Greek); Panos Drakopoulos (Eng.)

Fellowship Host (Thank You!): Ladies of the Parish Council

PC Member On-Duty: Maria Spicer



Today our Holy Orthodox Church commemorates:

+ Sunday of the Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council

The heresiarch Arius was a Libyan by race and a protopresbyter of the Church of Alexandria. In 315, he began to blaspheme against the Son and Word of God, saying that He is not true God, consubstantial with the Father, but is rather a work and creation, alien to the essence and glory of the Father, and that there was a time when He was not. This frightful blasphemy shook the faithful of Alexandria. Alexander, his Archbishop, after trying in vain to correct him through admonitions, cut him off from communion and finally in a local council deposed him in the year 321. Yet neither did the blasphemer wish to be corrected, nor did he cease sowing the deadly tares of his heretical teachings; but writing to the bishops of other cities, Arius and his followers requested that his doctrine be examined, and if it were unsound, that the correct teaching be declared to him. By this means, his heresy became universally known and won many supporters, so that the whole Church was soon in an uproar.

Therefore, moved by divine zeal, the first Christian Sovereign, Saint Constantine the Great, the equal to the Apostles, summoned the renowned First Ecumenical Council in Nicaea, a city of Bithynia. It was there that the shepherds and teachers of the Church of Christ gathered from all regions in the year 325. All of them, with one mouth and one voice, declared that the Son and Word of God is one in essence with the Father, true God of true God, and they composed the holy Symbol of Faith up to the seventh article (since the remainder, beginning with "And in the Holy Spirit," was completed by the Second Ecumenical Council). Thus they anathematized the impious Arius of evil belief and those of like mind with him, and cut them off as rotten members from the whole body of the faithful.

Therefore, recognizing the divine Fathers as heralds of the Faith after the divine Apostles, the Church of Christ has appointed this present Sunday for their annual commemoration, in thanksgiving and unto the glory of God, unto their praise and honor, and unto the strengthening of the true Faith.

+ After-feast of the Ascension of the Lord

+ Our Father among the Saints, Tikhon, Bishop of Amathus in Cyprus (+425)

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 Ascension (Ανελήφθη εν δόξη, 4th Mode):

You ascended in glory, O Christ our God, after You filled the Disciples with joy, by promising to send them the Holy Spirit, and You blessed them and established their faith, that You are the Son of God, the Redeemer of the world. (Sung before the Small Entrance and after the Resurrectional Hymn. Greek text found in large hymnal on pg. 168)

- Weekly Resurrectional Hymn (Αγγελικαί δυνάμεις, Plagal 2nd 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 after the Small Entrance)

- Hymn of the Holy Fathers (Υπερδεδοξαμένους ει, Plagal 4th Mode):

Supremely blessed are You, O Christ our God. You established the holy Fathers upon the earth as beacons, and through them You have guided us all to the true Faith, O greatly merciful One, glory be to You.

- Hymn of the Holy Cross (Σώσον Κύριε, 1st 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 Ascension (Την υπερ ημών, Plagal 2nd Mode):

When You had fulfilled the dispensation for our sake, * and united things on earth with the things in heaven, * You were taken up thither in glory, O Christ our God, * going not away from any place, * but continuing inseparable, * and to them that love You crying out: * "I am with you, and there is, therefore, none against you." (Greek text found in large hymnal on pg. 278)

Guidance, Prayer Requests, and Announcements

This Week's Daily

Scripture Readings and Fasting Guidance:

Sunday, June 16: Sunday of the Fathers of the 1st EC—No Fasting: John 21:1-14; Acts 20:16-18, 28-36; John 17:1-13

Monday, June 17—No Fasting: Acts 21:8-14; John 14:27-15:7

Tuesday, June 18—No Fasting: Acts 21:26-32, John 16:2-13

Wednesday, June 19—Fish+Wine+Oil: Jude 1:1-25; John 14:21-24

Thursday, June 20—No Fasting: Acts 25:13-19; John 16:23-33

Friday, June 21—Wine+Oil: Acts 27:1-44, 28:1; John 17:18-26

Saturday, June 22: Saturday of the Souls—No Fasting: I Thessalonians 4:13-17; John 21:14-25

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, Bessie, Katerina, Link, Bill, Virginia, Karl, Colin, Mitch, Rinne, Michael, Christian, Paul

Prayers for those recently reposed:

Edward (+May 23), Chantelle (+May 28), Vassilios (+May 29), Despina (+June 9), Evangelia (+June 10)

Prayers for expecting mothers:

Julie G., Bobbie I., Muryah S.

Prayers for Military Personnel and Their Families:

Aubriana Butchko, Kyle Glotzbach, Robert Ice, Aaron Vrahotes, 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:

The Church's Hymnography extols the Holy Fathers who defended the faith against heresy (from last night's Great Vespers): "Today let us extol those God-bearing Fathers, whom we call the mystical trumpets of the Spirit, for when they declared theology, it was like they were playing harmonious music in the middle of the Church. They taught that the Trinity is one, unchanging essence and Godhead. They were the front-line defenders of the Orthodox, and they brought down the heresy of Arius. Now they always intercede with the Lord, that He have mercy on our souls."

Upcoming Celebrations This Week

Name Days—Chronia Polla, Many Years!

June 19: Danny "Jude" McBride

Birthdays—Happy Birthday!

June 16: Henry Goss

June 17: Chrissy Holland, Father John Stefero

June 21: Ethan Pellegrino

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:

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

* **Bookstore:** The Bookstore is open on Sundays after the Divine Liturgy or by appointment only. If you are interested in making an appointment, please contact Cristina at 478-952-0202.

* **GREEK DANCE:** practice has begun and will be every other Sunday for the time being as we look ahead to the Festival. Bring comfortable shoes if needed. Opa!

* **YOUTH:** The next youth outing is at Rigby's in Warner Robins from 4:00-6:00pm on Friday, June 21. The start of Sunday School for 2024/2025 is Sunday, August 25th!

* The next meeting of the **Catechumen Class** will take place on Saturday, June 22 from 3:30 to 4:45pm in the Library/on Zoom. The subject matter for the summer session is "Orthodoxy 201," which is focused on day to day living as an Orthodox Christian. This is for both those who are learning about the Orthodox Church and those who are already Orthodox who would like to learn more! Contact Fr. Theodore for more information.

* **Byzantine Chant Class** will take place this coming Wednesday at 6:30pm after the Vespers. The class will be in the Chapel. All are invited to this introductory course. Please contact Fr. Theodore for more details.

* **Cross Dive Meeting** will be taking place on Tuesday, June 18 at 7:00pm in the Parish House. If you are interested in serving on the committee for the Third Annual Pan-Orthodox Cross Dive, please plan on attending!

* Interested in learning **How to Prepare Prosfora?** Please contact Natalia (478.951.3990) and let her know you are interested. We are looking at a Saturday in July that works for most!

* **Festival Prep** planning has begun. We will be prepping Pastitsio on Friday, July 19th. There will be a **Chairman Committee Meeting** on Sunday, July 21st following Divine Liturgy in the big room in the Parish House. Please let Natalia know if you are able to help for Pastitsio and/or attend the Chairman Planning Committee. Other dates to mark on your calendar: Spanakopita Prep (Aug. 10) and Dolmades Prep (Sept 21). Also, coming soon...Sponsorship Sales...be on the lookout!

* Wishing all of our fathers, grandfathers, godfathers, those who serve in a fatherly role a **Happy Father's Day** today! God bless you all!