



# HOLY CROSS

## GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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

### Sunday, September 8, 2024

Sunday before the Holy Cross

Nativity of the Theotokos

Eothinon/Orthros Gospel: Festal (Luke 1:39-49, 56)

Mode of the Week: Second / Δεύτερος

QR Codes (scan with smart phone for service texts)

Orthros, part 1



Orthros, part 2



Divine Liturgy



### Upcoming Schedule

<i>Sunday, September 8</i>	9:15am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy on the Nativity of the Theotokos Sunday School for the Youth following Holy Communion Coffee Fellowship in the Parish House after the Liturgy 12:30pm Philoptochos Meeting in the Parish House Youth Car-Wash Fundraiser 12:45pm Bible Study
<i>Monday, September 9</i>	5:30pm Paraklesis to Sts. Joachim and Anna (on their Feast Day)
<i>Wednesday, September 11</i>	5:30pm Vespers for the Leave-taking of the Nativity of the Theotokos 6:30pm Cross Dive Meeting
<i>Friday, September 13</i>	7:00pm Holy Vigil for the Elevation of the Holy Cross (Great Vespers with Artoklasia, Orthros with Procession of the Cross, and Divine Liturgy)
<i>Sunday, September 15</i>	8:45am Orthros 10:00am Divine Liturgy on the Sunday after Holy Cross with procession of the Holy Cross Sunday School for the Youth after Holy Communion Panagiri/Luncheon after the Divine Liturgy 2:00pm Pan-Orthodox Cross Dive at Kathy Patras's House
<i>Wednesday, September 18</i>	5:30pm Small Paraklesis 6:45pm Parish Council Meeting
<i>Saturday, September 21</i>	8:00am Festival Prep: Dolmades 3:30pm Intro to Orthodoxy Class in the Library 5:00pm Great Vespers
<i>Sunday, September 22</i>	9:15am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy on the 1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of Luke Sunday School for the Youth after Holy Communion Memorial Service for departed members of the Panagakos family at the end of the Liturgy Coffee Fellowship in the Parish House after the Liturgy 12:45pm Youth Greek School/Adult Bible Study
<i>Wednesday, September 25</i>	3:00pm Red Cross Blood Drive in the Parish House (until 7:00pm) 5:30pm Great Vespers for the Feast of St. John the Theologian
<i>Sunday, September 29</i>	9:15am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy on the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Luke Sunday School for the Youth after Holy Communion Coffee Fellowship in the Parish House after Liturgy 12:45pm Adult Greek School

**Upcoming Epistle Readers:** (9/15) Aleca Hortman, Mike Cantrell; (9/22) Pete Tsamolias, James Scarborough  
**Upcoming PC Member On-Duty:** (9/15) John Apostolou; (9/22) Natalia Saratsiotis; (9/29) Sarah Drakopoulos  
**Upcoming Ushers:** (9/9+11) James S.; (9/13) Charles G.; (9/15) Sarah D., Maria S.; (9/18) James S.; (9/21) David Z.  
**Upcoming Video Operators:** (9/9) Cristina L.; (9/13) Natalia S.; (9/15) Joanna P.; (9/22) Cristina L.; (9/29) Natalia  
**Fellowship Hosts:** (9/15) Panagiri/Cross Dive; (9/22) Mandi Saratsiotis; (9/29) Helen Vardy; (10/6) Patsy Zoumberis

### 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 offered only to 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, κεκραῶμαι, ὁ  
Θεός μου.*

+++

*Πρὸς Γαλάτας Ἐπιστολῆς Παύλου τὸ  
ἀνάγνωσμα.*

+++

Ἀδελφοί, ἴδετε πηλίκους ὑμῖν  
γράμμασιν ἔγραψα τῇ ἐμῇ χειρὶ.  
ὅσοι θέλουσιν εὐπροσωπῆσαι ἐν  
σαρκί, οὗτοι ἀναγκάζουσιν ὑμᾶς  
περιτέμνεσθαι, μόνον ἵνα μὴ τῷ  
σταυρῷ τοῦ Χριστοῦ διώκωνται.  
οὐδὲ γὰρ οἱ περιτετημημένοι αὐτοὶ  
νόμον φυλάσσουν, ἀλλὰ θέλουσιν  
ὑμᾶς περιτέμνεσθαι, ἵνα ἐν τῇ  
ὑμετέρα σαρκὶ καυχῶνται. ἐμοὶ δὲ  
μὴ γένοιτο καυχᾶσθαι εἰ μὴ ἐν τῷ  
σταυρῷ τοῦ Κυρίου ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦ  
Χριστοῦ, δι' οὗ ἐμοὶ κόσμος  
ἐσταύρωται καὶ γὰρ τῷ κόσμῳ. ἐν γὰρ  
Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ οὔτε περιτομὴ τι  
ισχύει οὔτε ἀκροβυστία, ἀλλὰ καινὴ  
κτίσις. καὶ ὅσοι τῷ κανόνι τούτῳ  
στοιχῆσουν, εἰρήνη ἐπ' αὐτοὺς καὶ  
ἔλεος, καὶ ἐπὶ τὸν Ἰσραὴλ τοῦ Θεοῦ.  
Τοῦ λοιποῦ κόπους μοι μηδεὶς  
παρεχέτω· ἐγὼ γὰρ τὰ στίγματα τοῦ  
Κυρίου Ἰησοῦ ἐν τῷ σώματί μου  
βαστάζω. Ἡ χάρις τοῦ Κυρίου ἡμῶν  
Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ μετὰ τοῦ πνεύματος  
ὑμῶν, ἀδελφοί· ἀμήν.

*O Lord, save Your people, and  
bless Your inheritance.  
Verse: To You, O Lord, I cry; O my  
God. (Psalm 27)*

+++

*The reading is from Paul's Letter  
to the Galatians. (6:11-18)*

+++

Brethren, see with what large  
letters I am writing to you with my  
own hand. It is those who want to  
make a good showing in the flesh  
that would compel you to be  
circumcised, and only in order that  
they may not be persecuted for the  
cross of Christ. For even those who  
receive circumcision do not  
themselves keep the law, but they  
desire to have you circumcised that  
they may glory in your flesh. But  
far be it from me to glory except in  
the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
by which the world has been  
crucified to me, and I to the world.  
For in Christ Jesus neither  
circumcision counts for anything,  
nor uncircumcision, but a new  
creation. Peace and mercy be upon  
all who walk by this rule, upon the  
Israel of God. Henceforth let no  
man trouble me; for I bear on my  
body the marks of Jesus. The grace  
of our Lord Jesus Christ be with  
your spirit, brethren. Amen.

## The Holy Gospel Reading according to St. John (3:13-17)

Sunday before the Holy Cross

Εἶπεν ὁ Κύριος· οὐδεὶς  
ἀναβέβηκεν εἰς τὸν  
οὐρανὸν εἰ μὴ ὁ ἐκ τοῦ  
οὐρανοῦ καταβάς, ὁ υἱὸς  
τοῦ ἀνθρώπου ὁ ὢν ἐν τῷ  
οὐρανῷ. καὶ καθὼς  
Μωϋσῆς ὕψωσε τὸν ὄφιν  
ἐν τῇ ἐρήμῳ, οὕτως  
ὑψωθῆναι δεῖ τὸν υἱὸν τοῦ  
ἀνθρώπου, ἵνα πᾶς ὁ  
πιστεύων εἰς αὐτὸν μὴ  
ἀπόληται, ἀλλ' ἔχη ζωὴν  
αἰώνιον. οὕτω γὰρ  
ἠγάπησεν ὁ Θεὸς τὸν  
κόσμον, ὥστε τὸν υἱὸν  
αὐτοῦ τὸν μονογενῆ  
ἔδωκεν, ἵνα πᾶς ὁ πιστεύων  
εἰς αὐτὸν μὴ ἀπόληται,  
ἀλλ' ἔχη ζωὴν αἰώνιον. οὐ  
γὰρ ἀπέστειλεν ὁ Θεὸς τὸν  
υἱὸν αὐτοῦ εἰς τὸν κόσμον  
ἵνα κρίνη τὸν κόσμον, ἀλλ'  
ἵνα σωθῆ ὁ κόσμος δι'  
αὐτοῦ.

The Lord said, "No one  
has ascended into heaven  
but he who descended  
from heaven, the Son of  
man who is in heaven.  
And as Moses lifted up  
the serpent in the  
wilderness, so must the  
Son of man be lifted up,  
that whoever believes in  
him should not perish  
but have eternal life. For  
God so loved the world  
that he gave his only-  
begotten Son, that  
whoever believes in him  
should not perish but  
have eternal life. For God  
sent the Son into the  
world, not to condemn  
the world, but that the  
world might be saved  
through him."

# 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 September 8, 2024

Ushers on Duty: Cleo Bennette, Cristina Lekas

Video: David Z. Altar Servers: All Adult/Youth Servers

Epistle Readers: George Saratsiotis (Greek); Isabelle Saratsiotis (Eng.)

Fellowship Host (Thank You!): Parish Council

PC Member On-Duty: Jim Lekas



### Today our Holy Orthodox Church commemorates:

+ Nativity of the Theotokos

The birth and early life of the Virgin Mary is not recorded in the Gospels or other books of the New Testament, however this information can be found in a work dating from the second century known as the Book of James or Protevangelion.

According to the story found in this book, Mary's parents, Joachim and Anna, were childless for many years. They remained faithful to God, but their prayers for a child were unanswered. One day, when Joachim came to the temple to make an offering, he was turned away by the High Priest who chastised him for his lack of children. To hide his shame, Joachim retreated to the hill country to live among the shepherds and their flocks.

As Joachim was praying, his wife Anna was praying at the same time at their house in Jerusalem. An angel appeared to both of them and announced that Anna would have a child whose name would be known throughout the world. Anna promised to offer her child as a gift to the Lord. Joachim returned home, and in due time Anna bore a daughter, Mary.

+ The Holy Siblings and Martyrs Rufus and Rufianus

Bending to the sword Rufianus said, "Remain in your affirmation Rufus, do not hesitate, but follow me."

+ The Holy Martyr Severus

"I am ready to bear all suffering," Servus said, "and is the sword for me?"

+ The Holy Martyr Artemidoros

In leaping Artemidoros is strong, and being burned in the fire shows his deeds.

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 Nativity of the Theotokos (H γέννησις σου Θεοτόκε, Fourth Mode):

Your Nativity, O Theotokos, imparted joy to the entire earth, for out of you has risen the Sun of Righteousness, Christ our God. He nullified the curse and instead gave His blessing; and causing death to be neutralized, He granted us eternal life. (Sung before the Small Entrance and after the Hymn of the Resurrection. Greek text found in hymnal on pg. 176)

- Weekly Resurrectional Hymn (Ότε κατήλθες, Second Mode):

When You descended unto Death, O Lord, You who are immortal Life put Hades to death, by the lightning of Your divinity. And when You raised the dead from the netherworld, all the hosts of heaven sang aloud to You, "O Christ God, Giver of life, glory to You!" (Sung after the Small Entrance, Greek Text found in hymnal on pg. 102)

- Hymn of the Holy Cross is not sung today due to the Great Feast.
- The Kontakion of the Nativity of the Theotokos (Ιωακείμ και Άννα, Fourth Mode):

Both Joachim and Anna from their sterility's stigma, and Adam and Eve from their mortality's ruin have been set free, O immaculate Maid, by your holy nativity. For this do your people hold celebration, redeemed from the guilt of transgression as they cry to you, "The barren one bears the Theotokos, the nourisher of our Life."

## Guidance, Prayer Requests, and Announcements

### This Week's Daily

Scripture Readings and Fasting Guidance:

Sunday, September 8: Nativity of the Theotokos—No Fasting: Luke 1:39-49, 56; Galatians 6:11-18; John 3:13-17

Monday, September 9: Synaxis of Sts. Joachim and Anna—No Fasting: Galatians 4:22-27; Luke 8:16-21

Tuesday, September 10—No Fasting: II Corinthians 5:15-21; John 3:16-21

Wednesday, September 11—Strict Fast: II Corinthians 6:11-16; John 12:19-36

Thursday, September 12—No Fasting: II Corinthians 7:1-10; John 11:47-54

Friday, September 13—Wine+Oil: Hebrews 3:1-4; Matthew 16:13-19

Saturday, September 14: Elevation of the Holy Cross—Wine+Oil: John 12:28-36; I Corinthians 1:18-24; John 19:6-11, 13-20, 25-28, 30

### Prayer Requests:

Metropolitan Alexios, Fr. Symeon (mission priest supported by our parish), Panteleimon, Michael, Kassiani, Dimitrios, Georgia, Pavlos, Maria, Betty, Irene, Valerie, Dianna, Jeannie, Dawn, Kenneth, Mary, Kay, Helen, Nikki, Mena, Austin, Kiley, Garrett, Carolina, Maria, Laurie, Lindsey, Randy, Marina, Effie, Christina, Ashley, Foster, Brian, Bessie, Katerina, Link, Virginia, Karl, Colin, Mitch, Rinne, Michael, Christian, Paul, Lucas, Leo

### Prayers for those recently reposed:

Matt (+July 28), Bill (+August 6), Keath (+August 14), Niko (+August 17), Ronnie (+August 18), Stephanie (+August 25), Michael (+August 27), Cristina (+September 4)

### Prayers for expecting mothers:

Katina B., Julia E., Schyler J.

### 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:

Adam, Bobbie, Dakota, Hannah, Jessica, Mary Emma, Mary Elizabeth, Nate, Schyler, Sophia, Susan, Tammy and pray for those who are seeking Christ and His Church!

### Weekly Wisdom of the Fathers:

St. Porphyrios the Kapsokalivite (+1991) with simple, yet wise words: "You don't become holy by fighting evil. Let evil be. Look towards Christ and that will save you. What makes a person saintly is love."

### Upcoming Celebrations This Week

Name Days—Chronia Polla, Many Years!

September 8: Diana-Maria Cazacu, Ana-Maria Filimon

September 9: Joachim Ehmer, Anna Gordy

September 11: Evelynnn Zoumberis

September 13: Cornelius Chiorescu, Arti Passias, Aristides Paul Vrahiotes

### Birthdays—Happy Birthday!

September 10: Dominic Economopoulos

September 12: Paula Cacavias

September 13: Mike Nicholas, Greg Spicer

September 14: Maggie Bennette

### Anniversaries—Congratulations!

September 9: Ron and Christine Sprouse

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

### Announcements:

\* Next Sunday is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Pan-Orthodox Cross Dive! We will begin with Orthros and Liturgy at the Church with visiting clergy, celebrate with a Panagiri/Celebration for our Church's Name Day after the service and conclude with the Cross Dive at Lake Tobo. We will be hosting our Orthodox brothers and sisters from other parishes as well—we need all of our faithful to attend! If you haven't signed up yet, please contact Presvytera Stacey ASAP!

\* **FESTIVAL INFO: Raffle tickets:** We are asking each family to sell or purchase a minimum of five books. Contact Natalia to get your raffle tickets today! **Committee Chairmen:** Start looking for parishioners to help in your area. If you have any concerns for your area, please contact one of the Festival Chairmen. **Other dates to mark on your calendar:** Dolmades Prep (Saturday, September 21st) and Pastry Prep (Saturday, October 12th and Saturday, October 19th). Festival Apparel is here, please see the link emailed or scan the QR code in the bookstore. **Apparel:** We are offering 4 different colors again this year: white, sky blue, royal and navy (short and long sleeves). We also have aprons in all the colors except sky blue. Samples of the shirt colors are located in the bookstore. Visit our webpage to order online: holycrossga.org. Deadline for apparel order is next Sunday, September 15th.

\* **Philoptochos News:** The next **Philoptochos Meeting** will be taking place TODAY after the Divine Liturgy.



\* An important email was sent a few weeks ago regarding our **ICONOGRAPHY PROJECT**. We are kindly asking each parishioner to submit a minimum of five names along with addresses to help build our database. Your participation is *crucial* to the success of this campaign. To submit names, you can either scan this QR Code or you can pick up a hard copy in the Narthex/Parish House. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask Emily Dermatas.

\* The Youth are hosting a **car wash** during the Philoptochos meeting after coffee hour TODAY. Deliver your dirty cars to the courtyard and receive them back squeaky clean. Donations will be accepted to support future youth activities. Hope to see you there!

\* The Parish Council is offering a **light lunch** following Liturgy today. Donations are graciously welcomed to support the Corey Robinson Scholarship Fund, which helps our youth attend the Saint Stephen's Summer Camp.