



# 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, October 13, 2024

Sunday of the Holy Fathers of the 7<sup>th</sup> Ecumenical Council  
 St. Benjamin the Deacon

Eothinos/Orthros Gospel: Fifth (Luke 24:12-35)

Mode of the Week: Grave / Βαρύς

QR Codes (scan with smart phone for service texts)

Orthros, part 1



Orthros, part 2



Divine Liturgy



### Upcoming Schedule

Today, October 13

9:15am Orthros  
 10:30am Divine Liturgy on the Sunday of the 7<sup>th</sup> Ecumenical Council  
 Sunday School for the Youth after Holy Communion  
 Coffee Fellowship in the Parish House after the Liturgy  
 12:30pm Parish Council Meeting  
 12:45pm Youth Greek Dance (until 1:15pm)  
 12:45pm Adult Greek School in the Chapel

Monday, October 14

Columbus Day — Office Closed

Wednesday, October 16

5:30pm Vespers  
 6:30pm Choir Practice in the Church

Friday, October 18

5:30pm Divine Liturgy on the Feast of St. Luke the Evangelist

Saturday, October 19

9:00am Pastry Prep for the Festival  
 3:30pm Introduction to the Orthodox Church Class in the Library/Zoom  
 5:00pm Great Vespers

Sunday, October 20

9:15am Orthros  
 10:30am Divine Liturgy on the 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Luke  
 Sunday School for the Youth after Holy Communion  
 Coffee Fellowship in the Parish House after the Liturgy  
 12:45pm Five-Year Committee Meeting  
 12:45pm Youth Greek School/Adult Bible Study

Thursday, October 24

9:00am Festival Set-Up (until completed)

Friday, October 25

11:00am Central Georgia Greek Festival (until 9:00pm)

Saturday, October 26

11:00am Central Georgia Greek Festival (until 9:00pm)  
 5:00pm Great Vespers (in the Church as part of the Church Tours)

Sunday, October 27

7:45am Orthros  
 9:00am Divine Liturgy on the 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Luke  
 (No Sunday School or Coffee Fellowship due to Festival)  
 Doxology to celebrate Oxi Day at the end of the Liturgy  
 11:00am Central Georgia Greek Festival (until 4:00pm)

Wednesday, October 30

5:30pm Vespers  
 6:15pm Pumpkin Carving with the Youth  
 6:30pm Choir Practice in the Church

Saturday, November 2

3:30pm Introduction to the Orthodox Church Class in the Library/Zoom  
 5:00pm Great Vespers

**Upcoming Epistle Readers:** (10/20) George Saratsiotis, Cheryl Schwartzkopf; (10/27) Aleca Hortman, Charles G.

**Upcoming PC Member On-Duty:** (10/20) Natalia Saratsiotis; (10/27) Jim Lekas; (11/3) John Apostolou

**Upcoming Ushers:** (10/16+18) OPEN; (10/19) James S.; (10/20) Cleo B., Sarah D.; (10/27) Cheryl+ Erick S.

**Upcoming Video Operators:** (10/20) David Z.; (10/27) Gray/David N.; (11/3) Natalia S.; (11/8) OPEN

**Fellowship Hosts:** (10/20) Youth Spaghetti Luncheon; (10/27) Festival; (11/3) Kathy Patras; (11/10) Sunday School

### 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

Εὐλογητὸς εἶ Κύριε ὁ Θεὸς τῶν  
πατέρων ἡμῶν.

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

+++

Πρὸς Τίτον Ἐπιστολῆς Παύλου τὸ  
ἀνάγνωσμα.

+++

Τέκνον Τίτε, πιστὸς ὁ λόγος· καὶ περὶ  
τούτων βούλομαί σε διαβεβαιουῖσθαι,  
ἵνα φροντίζωσι καλῶν ἔργων  
προΐστασθαι οἱ πεπιστευκότες τῷ  
Θεῷ. ταῦτά ἐστι τὰ καλὰ καὶ ὠφέλιμα  
τοῖς ἀνθρώποις· μωρὰς δὲ ζητήσεις  
καὶ γενεαλογίας καὶ ἔρεις καὶ μάχας  
νομικὰς περιίτασο· εἰσὶ γὰρ  
ἀνωφελεῖς καὶ μάταιοι. αἰρετικὸν  
ἄνθρωπον μετὰ μίαν καὶ δευτέραν  
νουθεσίαν παραιτοῦ, εἰδὼς ὅτι  
ἐξέστραπται ὁ τοιοῦτος καὶ  
ἀμαρτάνει ὢν αὐτοκατάκριτος. Ὅταν  
πέμψω Ἀρτεμᾶν πρὸς σε ἢ Τυχικόν,  
σπούδασον ἐλθεῖν πρὸς με εἰς  
Νικόπολιν· ἐκεῖ γὰρ κέκρικα  
παραχειμάσαι. Ζηναῖον τὸν νομικὸν καὶ  
Ἀπολλῶ σπουδαίως πρόπεμψον, ἵνα  
μηδὲν αὐτοῖς λείπη. μανθανέτωσαν δὲ  
καὶ οἱ ἡμέτεροι καλῶν ἔργων  
προΐστασθαι εἰς τὰς ἀναγκαίας  
χρείας, ἵνα μὴ ὦσιν ἄκαρποι.  
Ἀσπάζονται σε οἱ μετ' ἐμοῦ πάντες,  
ἄσπασαι τοὺς φιλοῦντας ἡμᾶς ἐν  
πίστει. Ἡ χάρις μετὰ πάντων ὑμῶν·  
ἀμήν.

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

*Verse: For You are righteous in all  
You did for us. (Prayer of Azariah)*

+++

*The reading is from Paul's Letter to  
Titus. (3:8-15)*

+++

Titus, my son, the saying is sure. I  
desire you to insist on these things,  
so that those who have believed in  
God may be careful to apply  
themselves to good deeds; these are  
excellent and profitable to men. But  
avoid stupid controversies,  
genealogies, dissensions, and  
quarrels over the law, for they are  
unprofitable and futile. As for a man  
who is factious, after admonishing  
him once or twice, have nothing  
more to do with him, knowing that  
such a person is perverted and sinful;  
he is self-condemned. When I send  
Artemas or Tychicus to you, do your  
best to come to me at Nicopolis, for I  
have decided to spend the winter  
there. Do your best to speed Zenas  
the lawyer and Apollos on their way;  
see that they lack nothing. And let  
our people learn to apply themselves  
to good deeds, so as to help cases of  
urgent need, and not to be unfruitful.  
All who are with me send greeting to  
you. Greet those who love us in the  
faith. Grace be with you all. Amen.

## The Holy Gospel Reading according to St. Luke (8:5-15)

Sunday of the Holy Fathers of the Seventh Ecumenical Council

Εἶπεν ὁ Κύριος τὴν παραβολὴν ταύτην·  
Ἐξῆλθεν ὁ σπείρων τοῦ σπείρειν τὸν  
σπόρον αὐτοῦ. καὶ ἐν τῷ σπείρειν αὐτὸν ὁ  
μὲν ἔπεσε παρὰ τὴν ὁδόν, καὶ  
κατεπατήθη, καὶ τὰ πετεινὰ τοῦ οὐρανοῦ  
κατέφαγεν αὐτό· καὶ ἕτερον ἔπεσεν ἐπὶ  
τὴν πέτραν, καὶ φυὲν ἐξηράνθη διὰ τὸ μὴ  
ἔχειν ἰκμάδα· καὶ ἕτερον ἔπεσεν ἐν μέσῳ  
τῶν ἀκανθῶν, καὶ συμφυεῖσαι αἱ ἄκανθαι  
ἀπέπνιξαν αὐτό. καὶ ἕτερον ἔπεσεν εἰς τὴν  
γῆν τὴν ἀγαθὴν, καὶ φυὲν ἐποίησε καρπὸν  
ἑκατονταπλασίονα. ταῦτα λέγων ἐφώνει· ὁ  
ἔχων ὄτα ἀκούειν ἀκουέτω. Ἐπηρώτων δὲ  
αὐτὸν οἱ μαθηταὶ αὐτοῦ λέγοντες· τίς εἶη ἡ  
παραβολὴ αὕτη; ὁ δὲ εἶπεν· ὑμῖν δέδοται  
γινῶναι τὰ μυστήρια τῆς βασιλείας τοῦ  
Θεοῦ, τοῖς δὲ λοιποῖς ἐν παραβολαῖς, ἵνα  
βλέποντες μὴ βλέπωσι καὶ ἀκούοντες μὴ  
συνιῶσιν. ἔστι δὲ αὕτη ἡ παραβολή· ὁ  
σπόρος ἐστὶν ὁ λόγος τοῦ Θεοῦ· οἱ δὲ  
παρὰ τὴν ὁδὸν εἰσιν οἱ ἀκούσαντες, εἶτα  
ἔρχεται ὁ διάβολος καὶ αἶρει τὸν λόγον  
ἀπὸ τῆς καρδίας αὐτῶν, ἵνα μὴ  
πιστεύσαντες σωθῶσιν. οἱ δὲ ἐπὶ τῆς  
πέτρας οἱ ὅταν ἀκούσωσι, μετὰ χαρᾶς  
δέχονται τὸν λόγον, καὶ οὗτοι ρίζαν οὐκ  
ἔχουσιν, οἱ πρὸς καιρὸν πιστεύουσι καὶ ἐν  
καιρῷ πειρασμοῦ ἀφίστανται. τὸ δὲ εἰς  
τὰς ἀκάνθας πεσόν, οὗτοί εἰσιν οἱ  
ἀκούσαντες, καὶ ὑπὸ μεριμνῶν καὶ  
πλοῦτου καὶ ἡδονῶν τοῦ βίου  
πορευόμενοι συμπνίγονται καὶ οὐ  
τελεσφοροῦσι. τὸ δὲ ἐν τῇ καλῇ γῆ, οὗτοί  
εἰσιν οἵτινες ἐν καρδίᾳ καλῇ καὶ ἀγαθῇ  
ἀκούσαντες τὸν λόγον κατέχουσι καὶ  
καρποφοροῦσιν ἐν ὑπομονῇ. Ὁ ἔχων ὄτα  
ἀκούειν ἀκουέτω.

The Lord said this parable: “A sower  
went out to sow his seed; and as he  
sowed, some fell along the path, and  
was trodden under foot, and the birds  
of the air devoured it. And some fell on  
the rock; and as it grew up, it withered  
away, because it had no moisture. And  
some fell among thorns; and the thorns  
grew with it and choked it. And some  
fell into good soil and grew, and yielded  
a hundredfold.” And when his disciples  
asked him what this parable meant, he  
said, “To you it has been given to know  
the secrets of the kingdom of God; but  
for others they are in parables, so that  
seeing they may not see, and hearing  
they may not understand. Now the  
parable is this: The seed is the word of  
God. The ones along the path are those  
who have heard; then the devil comes  
and takes away the word from their  
hearts, that they may not believe and be  
saved. And the ones on the rock are  
those who, when they hear the word,  
receive it with joy; but these have no  
root, they believe for a while and in  
time of temptation fall away. And as for  
what fell among the thorns, they are  
those who hear, but as they go on their  
way they are choked by the cares and  
riches and pleasures of life, and their  
fruit does not mature. And as for that in  
the good soil, they are those who,  
hearing the word, hold it fast in an  
honest and good heart, and bring forth  
fruit with patience.” As he said these  
things, he cried out, “He who has ears  
to hear, let him hear.”

# HOLY CROSS

## GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

Rev. Fr. Theodore Ehmer

Προϊστάμενος/Presiding Priest

E-mail: frtheodore@holycrossga.org

Cell: 770.256.0290

Office Days: Tuesday through Friday; call or email Fr. for appointment

Holy Confession: call or email Fr. to schedule

### Bulletin for the week of October 13, 2024

Ushers on Duty: Cristina and Jim Lekas

Video: Natalia S.

Altar Servers: All Adult/Youth Servers

Epistle Readers: Kostas Iakovidis (Greek); Beth Zoumberis (English)

Fellowship Host (Thank You!): Maria Broniskevsky

PC Member On-Duty: Gray Yates



### Today our Holy Orthodox Church commemorates:

+ Sunday of the Holy Fathers of the Seventh Ecumenical Council (+787)

On the Sunday that falls on or immediately after the eleventh of this month, we chant the Service to the 350 holy Fathers of the Seventh Ecumenical Council, which gathered in Nicaea in 787 under the holy Patriarch Tarasius and during the reign of the Empress Irene and her son, Constantine Porphyrogenitus, to refute the Iconoclast heresy, which had received imperial support beginning with the Edict issued in 726 by Emperor Leo the Isaurian. Many of the holy Fathers who condemned Iconoclasm at this holy Council later died as Confessors and Martyrs for the holy Icons during the second assault of Iconoclasm in the ninth century, especially during the reigns of Leo the Armenian and Theophilus.

+ The Holy Martyr Benjamin the Deacon (+421)

+ The Holy Martyrs Carpus, Papyrus, Agathodorus, and Agathoniki (+250)

Saint Carpus was Bishop of the Church of Thyatira in Asia Minor and Papyrus was his deacon, whom he had ordained. Seized as Christians and tormented in Thyatira, they were taken to Sardis, whither Agathodorus, their servant, followed them, and also confessed Christ, and was tormented with them. Together with Agathonika, the sister of Saint Papyrus, they were all beheaded during the reign of Decius, in the year 250.

+ The Holy Martyr Florentius of Thessaloniki (+2<sup>nd</sup> Century)

+ The Holy Martyr Dioskorus (+288)

+ Our Devout Father Niketas, the Patrician and Confessor of Paphlagonia (+838)

+ The Holy Martyr Antigonus

+ The Holy New Martyr Chryse in Slatena (+1795)

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 (Κατέλυσας τὸ Σταυρῶ σου, Grave Mode):

You destroyed death by Your Cross, You opened Paradise to the Robber. You turned the Myrrh-bearing Women's lament into joy, and You commanded Your Apostles to preach that You rose, O Christ God, granting the world the great mercy. (Sung before and after the Small Entrance, Greek Text found in hymnal on pg. 122)

- Hymn of the Holy Fathers (Υπερδεδοξασμένους εἰ, Plagal of the Fourth 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, 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 Normal Kontakion of the Theotokos (Προστασία των Χριστιανών, Second Mode):

O Protection of Christians that never falls, intercession with the Creator that never fails, we sinners beg you, do not ignore the voices of our prayers. O good Lady, we implore you, quickly come unto our aid, when we cry out to you with faith. Hurry to intercession, and hasten to supplication, O Theotokos who protect now and ever those who honor you. (Greek Text found in hymnal on pg. 224)

## Guidance, Prayer Requests, and Announcements

### This Week's Daily

#### Scripture Readings and Fasting Guidance:

Sunday, October 13: Holy Fathers of the Seventh Ecumenical Council—No Fasting: Luke 24:12-35; Titus 3:8-15; Luke 8:5-15

Monday, October 14—No Fasting: Ephesians 1:22-23, 2:1-3; Luke 9:18-22

Tuesday, October 15—No Fasting: Ephesians 2:19-22, 3:1-7; Luke 9:23-27

Wednesday, October 16: St. Longinus the Centurion—Strict Fast: Ephesians 3:8-21; Matthew 27:33-54

Thursday, October 17—No Fasting: Romans 9:18-33; Luke 9:49-56

Friday, October 18: St. Luke the Evangelist—Strict Fast: Colossians 4:5-11, 14-18; Luke 10:16-21

Saturday, October 19—No Fasting: Acts 2:14-21; Luke 7:1-10

### 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, Barry, Nicholas, Jude

### Prayers for those recently reposed:

Cristina (+September 4), Greg (+September 7), Ken (+September 8), Basileios (+September 15), Carol (+October 8)

### 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:

Fr. Alexander Schmemmann (+1983) reflecting on the Beatitudes: "The Fifth Beatitude that was spoken in the Sermon on the Mount is, "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy (Matt. 5:7). It is possible that no other commandment of Christ is needed more in our epoch than this commandment of mercy, of charity.

We live in the era of ideologies which in their attempt to be all-encompassing exist in continuous strife, and this strife fills the world with fear and hatred. We live in a world where mercy and charity are exiled, and that that is perhaps the most frightening thing about it, the sign of its dehumanization. How often it is told about Christ in the Gospels that He had compassion on them, that He was merciful to them!"

### Upcoming Celebrations This Week

#### Name Days—Chronia Polla, Many Years!

October 16: CJ Newberry

October 18: Norm Adams, Lukas Esquivel, Lucas Lekas, Luke Zoumberis

#### Birthdays—Happy Birthday!

October 16: Evelyn Zoumberis Neault

October 17: Indie Day Morris

#### Anniversaries—Congratulations!

October 13: Maria and Barry Mahoney

October 17: Rodica and George Cazacu

October 19: Paul and Tammy Vrahiotes

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

### Announcements:

\* **Greek School** for the adults will be taking place today at 12:45pm in the Chapel.

\* **Greek Dance** for our Youth will be taking place from 12:45pm to 1:15pm today as they prepare for the Festival!

\* The **Introduction to the Orthodox Church** class will continue this coming Saturday, October 19 in the Church Library and on Zoom at 3:30pm. The discussion topics will be on the Theotokos and the Holy Church. You are welcome to join whether you are a newcomer or have been in the Church for years or your whole life! If you need the Zoom link, please contact Father Theodore.

\* **Festival Info: Festival Info:** We are two weekends away from the festival! We are asking everyone to clear up any outstanding balances (sponsorships, apparel, yard signs and/or raffle tickets) by today. Please contact Natalia if you have any questions concerning your balance. Next Saturday, October 19th at 9AM, we will be finishing up putting the pastries in the containers. Please come if you are able to help. Festival setup will begin Thursday, October 24th (all day). Please come when you can! Lastly, have you committed to working at the festival? Now sure where you are needed? Contact any of the chairmen and they will point you in the right direction...OPA!

\* An important email was sent some weeks ago regarding our upcoming **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.



\* **Youth:** Please save the date for the evening of Wednesday, October 30. There will be Pumpkin Carving that will take place after the Vespers. Vespers is at 5:30pm and the carving will take place after, starting at approximately 6:15pm.

\* **Choir:** Thank you to all those that came to the meeting/fellowship this past Tuesday. Please note that we have arranged upcoming practices at 6:30pm this week, Wednesday, October 16 and on Wednesday, October 30.