



HOLY CROSS

GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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

Sunday, December 29, 2024

Sunday after the Nativity

Commemoration of the Holy Innocents

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

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

Today, December 29

9:15am Orthros
 10:30am Divine Liturgy on the Sunday after the Nativity of Christ
 Sunday School for the Youth after Holy Communion
 Coffee Fellowship in the Parish House after the Liturgy
 12:45pm Bible Study/Youth Greek School

Wednesday, January 1

New Years Day—Office Closed
 6:00pm Orthros
 7:00pm Divine Liturgy on the Feast Day of St. Basil the Great

Friday, January 3

9:30am Royal Hours of Theophany

Saturday, January 4

5:00pm Great Vespers

Sunday, January 5

9:15am Orthros
 10:30am Divine Liturgy on the Eve of Theophany
 40-Day Memorial for Presvytera Kalliopi Vastakis at the end of the Liturgy
 Blessing of the Waters at the end of the Liturgy
 Blessing and Cutting of the Vasilopita
 Coffee Fellowship in the Parish House after the Liturgy
 1:15pm Adult Greek School
 2:00pm Great Vespers for Theophany (Epiphany)

Monday, January 6

9:30am Orthros
 10:30am Divine Liturgy on the Feast Day of Theophany (Epiphany)
 Great Blessing of the Waters at the end of the Liturgy

Tuesday, January 7

9:30am Divine Liturgy on the Synaxis of St. John the Baptist
 11:00am Orthodox Book Study at Taste and See in Macon

Saturday, January 11

3:30pm Introduction to the Orthodox Church Class
 5:00pm Great Vespers

Sunday, January 12

9:15am Orthros
 10:30am Divine Liturgy on the Sunday after Theophany
 Sunday School for the Youth after Holy Communion
 (tentative) Blessing of the 2025 Parish Council at the end of the Liturgy
 Coffee Fellowship in the Parish House after the Liturgy
 12:45pm Bible Study/Youth Greek School
 1:00pm Parish Council Meeting

Tuesday, January 14

11:00am Orthodox Book Study at Taste and See in Macon

Upcoming Epistle Readers: (1/5) Chad Ridley, Beth Zoumberis; (1/12) Kostas Iakovidis, Richard Stewart
Upcoming PC Member On-Duty: (1/5) Sarah Drakopoulos; (1/12) Natalia Saratsiotis; (1/19) To Be Determined
Upcoming Ushers: (1/1) David Z.; (1/3) OPEN; (1/4) Cheryl+Erick S.; (1/5) Cleo B., Charles G.; (1/6) OPEN
Upcoming Video Operators: (1/5) Natalia S.; (1/6)Cristina L.; (1/12) Cristina Lekas;(1/17)OPEN;(1/19) Gray/David N
Fellowship Hosts: (1/5) Vasilopita; (1/12) Georgia Saratsiotis; (1/19) Toula Tsamolias; (1/26) Danai Esquivel

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

Θαυμαστός ὁ Θεὸς ἐν τοῖς ἁγίοις αὐτοῦ.
Στίχ. Ἐν ἐκκλησίαις εὐλογεῖτε τὸν Θεόν.

+++

Πρὸς Γαλάτας Ἐπιστολῆς Παύλου τὸ
ἀνάγνωσμα.

+++

Ἀδελφοί, γνωρίζω ὑμῖν τὸ εὐαγγέλιον τὸ εὐαγγελισθὲν ὑπ' ἐμοῦ ὅτι οὐκ ἔστι κατὰ ἄνθρωπον· οὐδὲ γὰρ ἐγὼ παρὰ ἀνθρώπου παρέλαβον αὐτὸ οὔτε ἐδιδάχθην, ἀλλὰ δι' ἀποκαλύψεως Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ. Ἠκούσατε γὰρ τὴν ἐμὴν ἀναστροφήν ποτε ἐν τῷ Ἰουδαϊσμῷ, ὅτι καθ' ὑπερβολὴν ἐδίωκον τὴν ἐκκλησίαν τοῦ Θεοῦ καὶ ἐπόρθουν αὐτήν, καὶ προέκοπτον ἐν τῷ Ἰουδαϊσμῷ ὑπὲρ πολλοὺς συνηλικιώτας ἐν τῷ γένει μου, περισσοτέρως ζηλωτῆς ὑπάρχων τῶν πατρικῶν μου παραδόσεων. Ὅτε δὲ εὐδόκησεν ὁ Θεὸς ὁ ἀφορίσας με ἐκ κοιλίας μητρός μου καὶ καλέσας διὰ τῆς χάριτος αὐτοῦ ἀποκαλύψαι τὸν υἱὸν αὐτοῦ ἐν ἐμοί, ἵνα εὐαγγελίζωμαι αὐτὸν ἐν τοῖς ἔθνεσιν, εὐθέως οὐ προσανεθέμην σαρκὶ καὶ αἵματι, οὐδὲ ἀνῆλθον εἰς Ἱεροσόλυμα πρὸς τοὺς πρὸ ἐμοῦ ἀποστόλους, ἀλλὰ ἀπῆλθον εἰς Ἀραβίαν, καὶ πάλιν ὑπέστρεψα εἰς Δαμασκόν. Ἐπειτα μετὰ ἔτη τρία ἀνῆλθον εἰς Ἱεροσόλυμα ἱστορῆσαι Πέτρον, καὶ ἐπέμεινα πρὸς αὐτὸν ἡμέρας δεκαπέντε· ἕτερον δὲ τῶν ἀποστόλων οὐκ εἶδον εἰ μὴ Ἰάκωβον τὸν ἀδελφὸν τοῦ Κυρίου.

God is wondrous in His saints.
Verse: Bless God in the churches.
(Psalm 67)

+++

The reading is from Paul's Letter to
the Galatians. (1:11-19)

+++

Brethren, I would have you know that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. For I did not receive it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through a revelation of Jesus Christ. For you have heard of my former life in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God violently and tried to destroy it; and I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people, so extremely zealous was I for the traditions of my fathers. But when God who had set me apart before I was born, and had called me through his grace, was pleased to reveal his Son in me, in order that I might preach him among the Gentiles, I did not confer with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me, but I went away into Arabia; and again I returned to Damascus. Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas, and remained with him fifteen days. But I saw none of the other apostles except James the Lord's brother.

The Holy Gospel Reading according to St. Matthew (2:13-23)

Sunday after the Nativity

Ἀναχωρησάντων τῶν μάγων, ἰδοὺ ἄγγελος Κυρίου φαίνεται κατ' ὄναρ τῷ Ἰωσήφ λέγων· ἐγερθεὶς παράλαβε τὸ παιδίον καὶ τὴν μητέρα αὐτοῦ καὶ φεῦγε εἰς Αἴγυπτον, καὶ ἴσθι ἐκεῖ ἕως ἂν εἶπω σοι· μέλλει γὰρ Ἡρώδης ζητεῖν τὸ παιδίον τοῦ ἀπολέσαι αὐτό. Ὁ δὲ ἐγερθεὶς παρέλαβε τὸ παιδίον καὶ τὴν μητέρα αὐτοῦ νυκτὸς καὶ ἀνεχώρησεν εἰς Αἴγυπτον, καὶ ἦν ἐκεῖ ἕως τῆς τελευτῆς Ἡρώδου, ἵνα πληρωθῇ τὸ ῥηθὲν ὑπὸ τοῦ Κυρίου διὰ τοῦ προφήτου λέγοντος· ἐξ Αἰγύπτου ἐκάλεσα τὸν υἱόν μου. Τότε Ἡρώδης ἰδὼν ὅτι ἐνεπαίχθη ὑπὸ τῶν μάγων, ἐθυμώθη λίαν, καὶ ἀποστείλας ἀνείλε πάντας τοὺς παῖδας τοὺς ἐν Βηθλεὲμ καὶ ἐν πᾶσι τοῖς ὀρίοις αὐτῆς ἀπὸ διετοῦς καὶ κατωτέρω, κατὰ τὸν χρόνον ὃν ἠκρίβωσε παρὰ τῶν μάγων. τότε ἐπληρώθη τὸ ῥηθὲν ὑπὸ Ἱερεμίου τοῦ προφήτου λέγοντος· φωνὴ ἐν Ῥαμᾷ ἠκούσθη, θρήνος καὶ κλαυθμὸς καὶ ὄδυρμος πολὺς· Ῥαχὴλ κλαίουσα τὰ τέκνα αὐτῆς, καὶ οὐκ ἤθελε παρακληθῆναι, ὅτι οὐκ εἰσίν. Τελευτήσαντος δὲ τοῦ Ἡρώδου ἰδοὺ ἄγγελος Κυρίου κατ' ὄναρ φαίνεται τῷ Ἰωσήφ ἐν Αἰγύπτῳ λέγων· ἐγερθεὶς παράλαβε τὸ παιδίον καὶ τὴν μητέρα αὐτοῦ καὶ πορεύου εἰς γῆν Ἰσραὴλ· τεθνήκασι γὰρ οἱ ζητοῦντες τὴν ψυχὴν τοῦ παιδίου. Ὁ δὲ ἐγερθεὶς παρέλαβε τὸ παιδίον καὶ τὴν μητέρα αὐτοῦ καὶ ἦλθεν εἰς γῆν Ἰσραὴλ. ἀκούσας δὲ ὅτι Ἀρχέλαος βασιλεύει ἐπὶ τῆς Ἰουδαίας ἀντὶ Ἡρώδου τοῦ πατρὸς αὐτοῦ, ἐφοβήθη ἐκεῖ ἀπελθεῖν· χρηματισθεὶς δὲ κατ' ὄναρ ἀνεχώρησεν εἰς τὰ μέρη τῆς Γαλιλαίας, καὶ ἐλθὼν κατόκησεν εἰς πόλιν λεγομένην Ναζαρέτ, ὅπως πληρωθῇ τὸ ῥηθὲν διὰ τῶν προφητῶν ὅτι Ναζωραῖος κληθήσεται.

When the magi had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there till I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." And he rose and took the child and his mother by night, and departed to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, "Out of Egypt have I called my son." Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the magi, was in a furious rage, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time which he had ascertained from the magi. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah: "A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they were no more." But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child's life are dead." And he rose and took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus reigned over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. And he went and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled, "He shall be called a Nazarene."

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 December 29, 2024

Ushers on Duty: Charles Glotzbach, Joanna Patronis

Video: Gray Y./David N. **Altar Servers:** All Adult/Youth Servers

Epistle Readers: Helen Troupos (Greek); Carter Zoumberis (English)

Fellowship Host (Thank You!): Nichole Lawrence

PC Member On-Duty: Maria Spicer



Today our Holy Orthodox Church commemorates:

+ Sunday after the Nativity: Commemoration of Saints Joseph (Ιωσήφ) the Betrothed; David (Δαβίδ) the Prophet and King; and James (Ιάκωβος), the Brother of God

+ The Holy Innocents slaughtered by Herod

The infant-slaying Herod mentioned here is the same one that ruled at the time of Christ's Nativity. In those days, certain Magi, who were wise and noble men, perhaps even kings, set forth from the East, and came to Jerusalem, seeking the King of the Jews, who had been born; and they said that in the East, where their homeland was, an unusual and strange star had appeared two years before, which, according to an ancient oracle (Num 24:17), was to signify the birth of some great king of the Jews. "For we have seen His star in the east," they said, "and have come to worship Him" (Matt. 2:2). Hearing these things, Herod was troubled, and the whole city together with him. Then, having inquired and been informed by the high priests and scribes of the people that, according to the prophecies, Christ was to be born in Bethlehem, he sent the Magi thither and ordered them that, when they would find the Child, to inform him, so that he also - as he affirmed - might go and worship Him. But the Magi, after they had worshipped, departed by another way to their own country by a divine command. Then Herod was wroth and sent men to slay all the infants of Bethlehem and the parts round about, from two years old and under, thinking that with them he would also certainly slay the King Who had been born. But this vain man who fought against God was mocked, since Jesus the Child, with Mary His Mother, under the protection of Joseph the Betrothed, fled into Egypt at the command of an Angel. As for those innocent infants, they became the first Martyrs slain in behalf of Christ. But their blood-thirsty executioner, the persecutor of Christ, came down with dropsy after a short time, with his members rotting and being eaten by worms, and he ended his life in a most wretched manner.

+ Our Devout Father Marcellus (Μάρκελλος), Abbot of the Unsleeping (+485)

+ Our Devout Father Thaddaeus (Θαδδαιός) the Confessor (+818)

+ Our Devout Father George (Γεώργιος), Bishop of Nicomedia (+857)

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 Christ (Η Γέννησις σου, Fourth Mode):*

Your nativity, O Christ our God, has caused the light of knowledge to rise upon the world. For therein the worshippers of the stars were by a star instructed to worship You, the Sun of Righteousness, and to know You as Orient from on high. Glory to You, O Lord. (Sung before the Small Entrance and after the Resurrectional Hymn, Greek text found in Hymnal on pg. 198)

- *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 Ancestors of God (Ευαγγελίζου Ιωσήφ, Second Mode):*

Annunciate the miracles to David the ancestor of God, O Joseph. You saw the Virgin pregnant. You glorified with the shepherds. You worshipped with the Magi. And you were warned by an Angel. Entreat Christ God to save our souls. (Greek text found in hymnal on pg. 202)

- *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 Nativity of Christ, Η Παρθένος σήμερα, Third Mode):*

On this day the Virgin gives birth to the Super-essential. To the Unapproachable, earth is providing the grotto. Angels sing and with the shepherds offer up glory. Following a star the Magi are still proceeding. He was born for our salvation, a newborn Child, the pre-eternal God. (Greek Text found in hymnal on pg. 244)

Guidance, Prayer Requests, and Announcements

This Week's Daily

Scripture Readings and Fasting Guidance:

Sunday, December 29—No Fasting:

Luke 24:12-35; Galatians 1:11-19; Matthew 2:13-23

Monday, December 30—No Fasting:

II Timothy 2:20-26; Mark 12:13-17

Tuesday, December 31—No Fasting:

II Timothy 3:16-17, 4:1-4; Mark 11:11-23

Wednesday, January 1: Circumcision of the Lord/St.

Basil the Great—No Fasting:

John 10:1-9; Colossians 2:8-12; Luke 2:20-21, 40-52

Thursday, January 2—No Fasting:

Hebrews 5:4-10; John 3:1-15

Friday, January 3—No Fasting:

Acts 10:44-48, 11:1-10; John 1:18-28

Saturday, January 4—No Fasting:

I Timothy 3:13-16, 4:1-5; Matthew 3:1-6

Prayer Requests:

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

Prayers for those recently reposed:

Cheryl (+November 17). Presvytera Kalliopi (+November 24), Claudie (+December 2), Lulubell (+December 19)

Prayers for expecting mothers:

Katina B., Julia E. (baby born 12/21), 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:

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

Weekly Wisdom of the Fathers:

St. John Chrysostom (+407) magnifying the Nativity of the Lord, which we continue to celebrate: "I behold a new and wondrous mystery. My ears resound to the Shepherd's song, piping no soft melody, but chanting full forth a heavenly hymn. The Angels sing. The archangels blend their voice in harmony. The Cherubim hymn their joyful praise. The Seraphim exalt His glory. All join to praise this holy feast, beholding the Godhead here on earth, and man in heaven. He Who is above, now for our redemption dwells here below; and he that was lowly is by divine mercy raised. Bethlehem this day resembles heaven; hearing from the stars the singing of angelic voices; and in place of the sun, enfolds within itself on every side, the Sun of Justice. And ask not how: for where God wills, the order of nature yields. For He willed, He had the power, He descended, He redeemed; all things move in obedience to God. This day He Who is, is Born; and He Who is, becomes what He was not. For

when He was God, He became man; yet not departing from the Godhead that is His. Nor yet by any loss of divinity became He man, nor through increase became He God from man; but being the Word He became flesh, His nature, become of impassibility, remaining unchanged."

Upcoming Celebrations This Week

Name Days—Chronia Polla, Many Years!

Sunday after the Nativity: David Lee Bradford
December 31: Melanie Moye
January 1: Bessie Andros, Basil Ehmer, Betty Maxwell, Bill Vasilopoulos, Kiki Vasilopoulos, Carter Zoumberis

Birthdays—Happy Birthday!

December 31: Susan Sanders
January 3: Lukas Esquivel, Cristina Lekas
January 4: Robert Ice, Alex Saratsiotis

Anniversaries—Congratulations!

December 30: Hannah and Demetri Kostakis
January 3: Fr. Theodore and Presvytera Stacey Ehmer

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

Announcements:

* We thank **Fr. Ken Anthony** of the Annunciation Cathedral in Atlanta for leading the Divine Services us for us this morning!

* **Youth Greek School** will be taking place today at 12:45pm in the upstairs classrooms. **Bible Study** will also begin at 12:45pm in the back coffee hour room.

* **Iconography Project:** We are kindly asking each parishioner to submit a minimum of five names of friends and family along with addresses to help build our database of those who may want to support our project. To submit names, please scan this QR code or speak with Emily Dermatas. Please be sure to pick up a trifold in the bookstore as well!



* **Fr. Theodore will be out of town** visiting family this through the morning of January 1. If you have an emergency, let him know by cell phone in order to arrange pastoral care.

* An email has been sent regarding **House Blessings** which will take place after the Feast of Theophany at the beginning of January. Once again, house blessings will be arranged by area and there will be an online sign-up. If you need assistance in signing up, please contact Fr. Theodore.

* An **Orthodox Book Study** will begin on Tuesday, January 7 and meet each Tuesday at Taste and See Coffee Shop in Macon. We will be reading "Rediscovering the Goodness of Creation." More information to come soon by email!

* The **Enthronement** of our new Metropolitan of Atlanta, Metropolitan Sevastianos, will be taking place on Saturday, January 25 at 10:00am at the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Atlanta. More details to come!

Merry Christmas! Καλά Χριστούγεννα!

Happy New Year! Καλή Χρονιά!