



# 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, December 8, 2024

Tenth Sunday of Luke  
 St. Patapios of Thebes

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

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

<i>Sunday, December 8</i>	9:15am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy on the 10 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Luke Sunday School for the Youth after Holy Communion 1-Year Memorial for Bob (Samuel) Dunbar 3-Year Memorial for Eugenia Ghigeanu and 1-Year Memorial for Marin Cazacu 6-Month Memorial for Despina Karpouza 2025 Stewardship Blessing at the end of the Liturgy Coffee Fellowship in the Parish House after the Liturgy 12:00pm Parish Council Election in the Parish House 12:45pm Adult Greek School
<i>Tuesday, December 10</i>	9:00am Fr. Theodore serving Liturgy at the Metropolis Chapel in Atlanta 9:00am Philoptochos Pastry Tray Prep (in the Parish House)
<i>Wednesday, December 11</i>	5:00pm Great Vespers and Divine Liturgy on the eve of the Feast of St. Spyridon of Trimythous 7:00pm Choir Practice
<i>Friday, December 13</i>	6:30pm Parish Council Meeting
<i>Saturday, December 14</i>	9:00am Philoptochos Pastry Tray Pick-Up (through 11:00am) 4:00pm Blessing of the Pets at the Feast of St. Modestos of Jerusalem 5:00pm Great Vespers
<i>Sunday, December 15</i>	9:15am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy on the 11 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Luke Sunday School for the Youth after Holy Communion 1-Year Memorial for Eve McElrath Coffee Fellowship in the Parish House after the Liturgy 12:45pm Bible Study/Youth Greek School 2:00pm Philoptochos Christmas Social
<i>Wednesday, December 18</i>	5:30pm Small Paraklesis 6:30pm Choir Practice
<i>Thursday, December 19</i>	3:00pm Christmas Caroling Caravan, lead by the Choir and the Youth
<i>Saturday, December 21</i>	3:30pm Introduction to the Orthodox Church Class 5:00pm Great Vespers
<i>Sunday, December 22</i>	9:15am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy on the Sunday before the Nativity of Christ Sunday School for the Youth, Artoklasia, Christmas Pageant 12:45pm Adult Greek School

**Upcoming Epistle Readers:** (12/15) Aleca Hortman; Mike Cantrell; (12/22) Pete Tsamolias, James Scarborough  
**Upcoming PC Member On-Duty:** (12/15) Jim Lekas; (12/22) John Apostolou; (12/24) Maria Spicer, Gray Yates  
**Upcoming Ushers:** (12/11) Cristina L.; (12/14) David Z.; (12/15) Cheryl+Ericks S.; (12/18) Tassie C.; (12/21) Sarah D.  
**Upcoming Video Operators:** (12/8) David Z.; (12/15) Natalia S.; (12/22) Joanna P.; (12/24pm) David Z.  
**Fellowship Hosts:** (12/15) Jay McElrath; (12/22) Christine+Ron Sprouse; (12/29) Nichole Lawrence; (1/5) Vasilopita

### 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

*Κύριος ἰσχὺν τῷ λαῷ αὐτοῦ δώσει,  
Κύριος εὐλογήσει τὸν λαὸν αὐτοῦ ἐν  
εἰρήνῃ.*

*Στίχ. Ἐνέγκατε τῷ Κυρίῳ, υἱοὶ Θεοῦ,  
ἐνέγκατε τῷ Κυρίῳ δόξαν καὶ τιμὴν.*

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*Πρὸς Ἐφεσίους Ἐπιστολῆς Παύλου τὸ  
ἀνάγνωσμα.*

+++

Ἀδελφοί, Χριστός ἐστιν ἡ εἰρήνη  
ἡμῶν, ὁ ποιήσας τὰ ἀμώτερα ἐν καὶ  
τὸ μεσότοιχον τοῦ φραγμοῦ λύσας,  
τὴν ἔχθραν, ἐν τῇ σαρκὶ αὐτοῦ τὸν  
νόμον τῶν ἐντολῶν ἐν δόγμασι  
καταργήσας, ἵνα τοὺς δύο κτίσει ἐν  
ἑαυτῷ εἰς ἓνα καινὸν ἄνθρωπον ποιῶν  
εἰρήνην, καὶ ἀποκαταλλάξῃ τοὺς  
ἀμφοτέρους ἐν ἐνὶ σώματι τῷ Θεῷ διὰ  
τοῦ σταυροῦ, ἀποκτείνας τὴν ἔχθραν  
ἐν αὐτῷ· καὶ ἐλθὼν εὐηγγελίσατο  
εἰρήνην ὑμῖν τοῖς μακρὰν καὶ τοῖς  
ἐγγύς, ὅτι δι' αὐτοῦ ἔχομεν τὴν  
προσαγωγὴν οἱ ἀμώτεροι ἐν ἐνὶ  
πνεύματι πρὸς τὸν πατέρα. ἄρα οὖν  
οὐκέτι ἐστὲ ξένοι καὶ πάροικοι, ἀλλὰ  
συμπολιταὶ τῶν ἁγίων καὶ οἰκεῖοι τοῦ  
Θεοῦ, ἐποικοδομηθέντες ἐπὶ τῷ  
θεμελίῳ τῶν ἀποστόλων καὶ  
προφητῶν, ὄντος ἀκρογωνιαίου αὐτοῦ  
Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ, ἐν ᾧ πᾶσα ἡ  
οἰκοδομὴ συναρμολογουμένη αὐξεῖ  
εἰς ναὸν ἅγιον ἐν Κυρίῳ· ἐν ᾧ καὶ  
ὑμεῖς συνοικοδομεῖσθε εἰς  
κατοικητήριον τοῦ Θεοῦ ἐν Πνεύματι.

*The Lord will give strength to His  
people; the Lord will bless His people  
with peace.*

*Verse: Bring to the Lord, O you sons  
of God, bring to the Lord glory and  
honor. (Psalm 28)*

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*The reading is from Paul's Letter to  
the Ephesians. (2:14-22)*

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Brethren, Christ is our peace, who  
has made us both one, and has  
broken down the dividing wall of  
hostility, by abolishing in his flesh the  
law of commandments and  
ordinances, that he might create in  
himself one new man in place of the  
two, so making peace, and might  
reconcile us both to God in one body  
through the cross, thereby bringing  
the hostility to an end. And he came  
and preached peace to you who were  
far off and peace to those who were  
near; for through him we both have  
access in one Spirit to the Father. So  
then you are no longer strangers and  
sojourners, but you are fellow citizens  
with the saints and members of the  
household of God, built upon the  
foundation of the apostles and  
prophets, Christ Jesus himself being  
the cornerstone, in whom the whole  
structure is joined together and grows  
into a holy temple in the Lord; in  
whom you also are built into it for a  
dwelling place of God in the Spirit.

## The Holy Gospel Reading according to St. Luke (18:35-43)

Tenth Sunday of Luke

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, ἣν διδάσκων ὁ  
Ἰησοῦς ἐν μιᾷ τῶν συναγωγῶν ἐν  
τοῖς σάββασι. καὶ ἰδοὺ γυνὴ ἦν  
πνεῦμα ἔχουσα ἀσθενείας ἔτη δέκα  
καὶ ὀκτώ, καὶ ἦν συγκύπτουσα καὶ  
μὴ δυναμένη ἀνακῦψαι εἰς τὸ  
παντελές. ἰδὼν δὲ αὐτὴν ὁ Ἰησοῦς  
προσεφώνησε καὶ εἶπεν αὐτῇ·  
γύναι, ἀπολέλυσαι τῆς ἀσθενείας  
σου· καὶ ἐπέθηκεν αὐτῇ τὰς χεῖρας·  
καὶ παραχρῆμα ἀνωρθώθη καὶ  
ἐδόξαζε τὸν Θεόν. ἀποκριθεὶς δὲ ὁ  
ἀρχισυνάγωγος, ἀγανακτῶν ὅτι τῷ  
σαββάτῳ ἐθεράπευσεν ὁ Ἰησοῦς,  
ἔλεγε τῷ ὄχλῳ· ἕξ ἡμέραι εἰσὶν ἐν  
αἷς δεῖ ἐργάζεσθαι· ἐν ταύταις οὖν  
ἐρχόμενοι θεραπεύεσθε, καὶ μὴ τῇ  
ἡμέρᾳ τοῦ σαββάτου. ἀπεκρίθη οὖν  
αὐτῷ ὁ Κύριος καὶ εἶπεν· ὑποκριτά,  
ἕκαστος ὑμῶν τῷ σαββάτῳ οὐ λύει  
τὸν βούν αὐτοῦ ἢ τὸν ὄνον ἀπὸ τῆς  
φάτνης καὶ ἀπαγαγὼν ποτίζει;  
ταύτην δέ, θυγατέρα Ἀβραάμ  
οὕσαν, ἣν ἔδησεν ὁ σατανᾶς ἰδοὺ  
δέκα καὶ ὀκτὼ ἔτη, οὐκ ἔδει  
λυθῆναι ἀπὸ τοῦ δεσμοῦ τούτου τῇ  
ἡμέρᾳ τοῦ σαββάτου; καὶ ταῦτα  
λέγοντος αὐτοῦ κατησχύνοντο  
πάντες οἱ ἀντικείμενοι αὐτῷ, καὶ  
πᾶς ὁ ὄχλος ἔχαιρεν ἐπὶ πᾶσι τοῖς  
ἐνδόξοις τοῖς γινομένοις ὑπ' αὐτοῦ.

At that time, Jesus was teaching in  
one of the synagogues on the  
sabbath. And there was a woman  
who had a spirit of infirmity for  
eighteen years; she was bent over  
and could not fully straighten  
herself. And when Jesus saw her,  
he called her and said to her,  
“Woman, you are freed from your  
infirmity.” And he laid his hands  
upon her, and immediately she  
was made straight, and she  
praised God. But the ruler of the  
synagogue, indignant because  
Jesus had healed on the sabbath,  
said to the people, “There are six  
days on which work ought to be  
done; come on those days and be  
healed, and not on the sabbath  
day.” Then the Lord answered  
him, “You hypocrites! Does not  
each of you on the sabbath untie  
his ox or his donkey from the  
manger, and lead it away to water  
it? And ought not this woman, a  
daughter of Abraham whom Satan  
bound for eighteen years, be  
loosed from this bond on the  
sabbath day?” As he said this, all  
his adversaries were put to shame;  
and all the people rejoiced at all  
the glorious things that were done  
by him.

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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 December 8, 2024

Ushers on Duty: Cleo Bennette, Jim Lekas

Video: Cristina L.

Altar Servers: All Adult/Youth Servers

Epistle Readers: Kostas Iakovidis (Greek); Isabelle Saratsiotis (English)

Fellowship Host (Thank You!): Rodica Cazacu

PC Member On-Duty: Natalia Saratsiotis



### Today our Holy Orthodox Church commemorates:

+ Fore-feast of the Conception by St. Anna of the Most Holy Theotokos

*The Feast of the Conception of the Theotokos by St. Anna is celebrated on December 9.*

+ Our Devout Father Patapios (Πατάπιος) of Thebes (+4<sup>th</sup> Century)

*This Saint was from the Thebaid of Egypt and struggled many years in the wilderness. He departed for Constantinople, and having performed many miracles and healings, he reposed in peace in a mountain cave on the Gulf of Corinth, where his holy relics are found incorrupt to the present day.*

+ The Holy Apostles of the Seventy: Sosthenes (Σωσθένης), Apollo (Απολλώς), Cephas (Κηφάς), Tychicus (Τυχικός), Eraphroditus (Εραφρόδιτος), Caesar (Καίσαρ), and Onesiphorus (Ονησίφορος) (+1<sup>st</sup> Century)

+ Our Devout Father Sophronios (Σωφρόνιος), Bishop of Cyprus (+8<sup>th</sup> Century)

+ The Venerable Aeros (Αέρος), Archbishop of Jerusalem

+ The Holy Martyr Anthusa (Ανθούσα) at Rome (+5<sup>th</sup> Century)

*The Holy Martyr Anthusa, the wife of a Roman official, was baptized by Saint Ambrose of Milan (December 7). When the city prefect's wife Sumilda suggested that Saint Anthusa be baptized by an Arian, she refused. So she was committed to the fire, and received the crown of martyrdom.*

*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 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.

- *Kontakion of the Memorial Service (Μνήσθητι, Κύριε, Plagal 4<sup>th</sup> Mode):*

Remember, O Lord, as You are good, Your servants, and forgive every sin they have committed in this life. For no one is sinless except You, Who has power to grant rest to those who have fallen asleep.

- *The Kontakion of the Preparation for the Nativity of Christ, Ἡ Παρθένος σήμερον, Third Mode):*

On this day the Virgin Maid goes to the grotto to give birth to the pre-eternal Word in an ineffable manner. Dance for joy, all the inhabited earth, on hearing. Glorify along with Angels and with the shepherds Him who willed that He appear as a newborn Child, the pre-eternal God. (Greek Text found in hymnal on pg. 240)

## Guidance, Prayer Requests, and Announcements

### This Week's Daily

#### Scripture Readings and Fasting Guidance:

Sunday, December 8—Fish+Wine+Oil: Mark 16:1-8;

Ephesians 2:14-22; Luke 13:10-17

Monday, December 9: Conception of the Theotokos—

Fish+Wine+Oil: Galatians 4:22-27; Luke 8:16-21

Tuesday, December 10—Fish+Wine+Oil:

II Thessalonians 1:10-12, 2:1-2; Mark 8:22-26

Wednesday, December 11—Strict Fast: II Thessalonians

2:1-12; Mark 8:30-34

Thursday, December 12: St. Spyridon—

Fish+Wine+Oil: John 10:1-9; Ephesians 5:8-19; John

10:9-16

Friday, December 13—Strict Fast: II Thessalonians 3:6-

18; Mark 9:33-41

Saturday, December 14—Wine+Oil: Galatians 1:3-10;

Luke 14:1-11

### 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

### Prayers for those recently reposed:

Nicholas (+November 3), Jonathan (+November 3), Robert (+November 7), Cheryl (+November 17). Presvytera Kalliopi (+November 24), Claudie (+December 2)

### 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:

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. Hesychios the Priest (+451) reminding us the need to spend time with Holy Scripture, the Holy Hymnography, the Lives of the Saints, and other Spiritual Reading: "A traveler setting out for a long, difficult, and arduous journey and foreseeing that he may lose his way when he comes back, will put up signs and guideposts long his path in order to make his return simpler. The watchful man, foreseeing this same thing, will use sacred texts to guide him."

### Upcoming Celebrations This Week

Name Days—Chronia Polla, Many Years!

December 9: Diane Berkner, Anna Kallergis, Cheryl Stefanis

December 11: Adam Kangas

December 12: Spyros Dermatas, Dragos Filimon

### Birthdays—Happy Birthday!

December 8: Violet Christina Danforth, Lilly Anne Syribeys

December 9: Henry Gordy, Nicholas James Peterson, Tom Zdrakas

December 10: Spyros Dermatas

December 11: Denna Bradford

December 12: Fr. Mike Vastakis

December 13: Kostas Iakovidis

December 14: Erick Schwartzkopf

### Anniversaries—Congratulations!

December 11: Brad and Jordan Perry

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

### Announcements:

\* The Blessing of the 2025 Stewardship Pledges will take place at the end of the Divine Liturgy today. Thank you to all who have pledged their support to our beloved Holy Cross Church!

\* **Adult Greek School** this afternoon in the Chapel at 12:45pm.

\* The **Parish Council Election** will be taking place today after the Liturgy in the Parish House. The 3 Candidates for the 3 Positions are: John Apostolou, Chad Ridley, and Natalia Saratsiotis. May God bless their ministry on the Council!

\* This coming Saturday, December 14, is the annual **Animal/Pet Blessing** which will take place in the Courtyard outside of the Church. Please bring your beloved pet for a special blessing as we celebrate the feast of St. Modestos of Jerusalem, intercessor for the health of animals.

\* **Philoptochos (Ladies Philanthropic Group):** Next Sunday, December 15 at 2:00pm! Please RSVP with Presvytera Stacey.

\* **Youth:** Christmas Caroling along with the Choir will be taking place on Thursday, December 19, beginning at 3:00pm. We will be once again caravanning through Macon and Warner Robins. More details to come soon. Christmas Pageant will be taking place after the Divine Liturgy on Sunday, December 22.

\* **Poinsettias:** If you would like to purchase a poinsettia "In Memory of" or "In Honor of", please fill out the form (scan QR Code - if you need help, please contact Natalia Saratsiotis or Cristina Lekas) and turn in your payment to John Apostolou, Maria Spicer or an usher (please have it marked with your name). Deadline is December 15th.

\* **Choir Practice** will be taking place the next two Wednesday evenings, December 11 (7:00pm) and 18 (6:30pm) as we prepare for Christmas.

\* **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 one of the Iconography trifolds in the bookstore as well!

