



# 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, February 2, 2025

The Meeting of the Lord (Υπαπαντή)

St. Agathodoros of Tyana

Eothinon/Orthros Gospel: Festal (Luke 2:25-32)

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>Today, February 2</i>	9:15am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy on the Feast Day of the Presentation of the Lord in the Temple (and Godparent Sunday) Sunday School for the Youth after Holy Communion 3-Year Memorial for Samuel Chuck Ray at the end of the Liturgy St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival after the Divine Liturgy Coffee Fellowship in the Parish House after the Oratorical Festival 12:45pm Adult Greek School
<i>Tuesday, February 4</i>	11:00am Orthodox Book Study at Taste and See in Macon
<i>Wednesday, February 5</i>	5:30pm Great Vespers for the Feast of St. Photios the Great 6:30pm Choir Practice
<i>Thursday, February 6</i>	6:30pm Planning Committee Meeting
<i>Saturday, February 8</i>	3:30pm Introduction to the Orthodox Church Class (in the Library/Zoom) 5:00pm Great Vespers
<i>Sunday, February 9</i>	9:15am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy on the Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee (beginning of the Triodion) Sunday School for the Youth after Holy Communion Coffee Fellowship in the Parish House after the Divine Liturgy 12:45pm Bible Study/Youth Greek School
<i>Monday, February 10</i>	9:30am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy on the Feast Day of St. Haralambos 12:00pm Orthodox Book Study (in the Parish House)
<i>Tuesday, February 11</i>	6:30pm Parish Council Meeting
<i>Sunday, February 16</i>	9:15am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy on the Sunday of the Prodigal Son Sunday School for the Youth after Holy Communion Coffee Fellowship in the Parish House after the Divine Liturgy 12:45pm Adult Greek School
<i>Monday, February 17</i>	Presidents Day—Office Closed
<i>Wednesday, February 19</i>	5:30pm Small Paraklesis 6:30pm Choir Practice 6:30pm Introduction to the Orthodox Church Class (in the Library/Zoom)

**Upcoming Epistle Readers:** (2/9) Helen Troupos, Cleo Bennette; (2/16) Chad Ridley, Sarah Drakopoulos  
**Upcoming PC Member On-Duty:** (2/9) John Apostolou; (2/16) Maria Spicer; (2/23) Sarah Drakopoulos; (3/2) Chad  
**Upcoming Ushers:** (2/5) Tassie C.; (2/8) Charles G.; (2/9) Erick+Cheryl S.; (2/10) Norm+Eleni A.; (2/16) Cleo, John  
**Upcoming Video Operators:** (2/9) David Z.; (2/16) David Z.; (2/23) Gray/David N.; (3/2) Natalia S.; (3/3) OPEN  
**Fellowship Hosts:** (2/9) Natalia Saratsiotis; (2/16) Cristina Lekas; (2/23) Cleo Bennette; (3/2) Eleftheria Trettel

### 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

*Μεγαλύνει ἡ ψυχὴ μου τὸν Κύριον, καὶ ἠγαλλίασε τὸ πνεῦμά μου ἐπὶ τῷ Θεῷ τῷ σωτήρι μου.*

*Στίχ. Ὅτι ἐπέβλεψεν ἐπὶ τὴν ταπείνωσιν τῆς δούλης αὐτοῦ.*

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*Πρὸς Ἑβραίους Ἐπιστολῆς Παύλου τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα.*

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Ἀδελφοί, χωρὶς πάσης ἀντιλογίας τὸ ἔλαττον ὑπὸ τοῦ κρείττονος εὐλογεῖται. καὶ ὧδε μὲν δεκάτας ἀποθνήσκοντες ἄνθρωποι λαμβάνουσιν, ἐκεῖ δὲ μαρτυρούμενος ὅτι ζῆ. καὶ ὡς ἔπος εἰπεῖν, διὰ Ἀβραὰμ καὶ Λευὶ ὁ δεκάτας λαμβάνων δεδεκάτωται· ἔτι γὰρ ἐν τῇ ὀσφυί τοῦ πατρὸς ἦν ὅτε συνήντησεν αὐτῷ ὁ Μελχισεδέκ. Εἰ μὲν οὖν τελείωσις διὰ τῆς Λευϊτικῆς ἱερωσύνης ἦν· ὁ λαὸς γὰρ ἐπ' αὐτῇ νενομοθέτητο· τίς ἔτι χρεῖα κατὰ τὴν τάξιν Μελχισεδέκ ἕτερον ἀνίστασθαι ἱερέα καὶ οὐ κατὰ τὴν τάξιν Ἀαρὼν λέγεσθαι; μετατιθεμένης γὰρ τῆς ἱερωσύνης ἐξ ἀνάγκης καὶ νόμου μετάθεσις γίνεται. ἐφ' ὃν γὰρ λέγεται ταῦτα, φυλῆς ἐτέρας μετέσχηκεν, ἀφ' ἧς οὐδεὶς προσέσχηκε τῷ θυσιαστηρίῳ. πρόδηλον γὰρ ὅτι ἐξ Ἰουδα ἀνατέταλκεν ὁ Κύριος ἡμῶν, εἰς ἣν φυλὴν οὐδὲν περὶ ἱερωσύνης Μωϋσῆς ἐλάλησε. Καὶ περισσότερον ἔτι κατάδηλόν ἐστιν, εἰ κατὰ τὴν ὁμοιότητα Μελχισεδέκ ἀνίσταται ἱερεὺς ἕτερος, ὃς οὐ κατὰ νόμον ἐντολῆς σαρκικῆς γέγονεν, ἀλλὰ κατὰ δύναμιν ζωῆς ἀκαταλύτου· μαρτυρεῖ γὰρ ὅτι σὺ ἱερεὺς εἰς τὸν αἰῶνα κατὰ τὴν τάξιν Μελχισεδέκ.

*My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.*

*Verse: For he has regarded the low estate of his handmaiden.*

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*The reading is from Paul's Letter to the Hebrews. (7:7-17)*

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Brethren, it is beyond dispute that the inferior is blessed by the superior. Here tithes are received by mortal men; there, by one whom it is testified that he lives. One might even say that Levi himself, who receives tithes, paid tithes through Abraham, for he was still in the loins of his ancestor when Melchizedek met him. Now if perfection had been attainable through the Levitical priesthood (for under it the people received the law), what further need would there have been for another priest to arise after the order of Melchizedek, rather than one named after the order of Aaron? For when there is a change in the priesthood, there is necessarily a change in the law as well. For the one of whom these things are spoken belonged to another tribe, from which no one has ever served at the altar. For it is evident that our Lord was descended from Judah, and in connection with that tribe Moses said nothing about priests. This becomes even more evident when another priest arises in the likeness of Melchizedek, who has become a priest, not according to a legal requirement concerning bodily descent but by the power of an indestructible life. For it is witnessed of him, “You are a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek.”

## The Holy Gospel Reading according to St. Luke (2:22-40)

### Meeting of the Lord in the Temple

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, ἀνήγαγον οἱ γονεῖς τὸ παιδίον Ἰησοῦν εἰς Ἱεροσόλυμα παραστῆσαι τῷ Κυρίῳ, καθὼς γέγραπται ἐν νόμῳ Κυρίου ὅτι πᾶν ἄρσεν διανοῖγον μήτραν ἅγιον τῷ Κυρίῳ κληθήσεται, καὶ τοῦ δοῦναι θυσίαν κατὰ τὸ εἰρημένον ἐν νόμῳ Κυρίου, ζευγὸς τρυγόνων ἢ δύο νεοσσούς περιστερῶν. Καὶ ἰδοὺ ἦν ἄνθρωπος ἐν Ἱεροσολύμοις ὃ ὄνομα Συμεών, καὶ ὁ ἄνθρωπος οὗτος δίκαιος καὶ εὐλαβής, προσδεχόμενος παράκλησιν τοῦ Ἰσραὴλ, καὶ Πνεῦμα ἦν Ἅγιον ἐπ' αὐτόν· καὶ ἦν αὐτῷ κεκρηματισμένον ὑπὸ τοῦ Πνεύματος τοῦ Ἁγίου μὴ ἰδεῖν θάνατον πρὶν ἢ ἰδῆ τὸν Χριστὸν Κυρίου. καὶ ἦλθεν ἐν τῷ Πνεύματι εἰς τὸ ἱερόν· καὶ ἐν τῷ εἰσαγαγεῖν τοὺς γονεῖς τὸ παιδίον Ἰησοῦν τοῦ ποιῆσαι αὐτοὺς κατὰ τὸ εἰθισμένον τοῦ νόμου περὶ αὐτοῦ, καὶ αὐτὸς ἐδέξατο αὐτόν εἰς τὰς ἀγκάλας αὐτοῦ καὶ εὐλόγησε τὸν Θεὸν καὶ εἶπε· νῦν ἀπολύεις τὸν δοῦλόν σου, δέσποτα, κατὰ τὸ ῥῆμά σου ἐν εἰρήνῃ, ὅτι εἶδον οἱ ὀφθαλμοί μου τὸ σωτήριόν σου, ὃ ἠτοίμασας κατὰ πρόσωπον πάντων τῶν λαῶν, φῶς εἰς ἀποκάλυψιν ἐθνῶν καὶ δόξαν λαοῦ σου Ἰσραὴλ. καὶ ἦν Ἰωσήφ καὶ ἡ μήτηρ αὐτοῦ θαυμάζοντες ἐπὶ τοῖς λαλουμένοις περὶ αὐτοῦ. καὶ εὐλόγησεν αὐτοὺς Συμεών καὶ εἶπε πρὸς Μαρὶὰμ τὴν μητέρα αὐτοῦ· ἰδοὺ οὗτος κεῖται εἰς πτώσιν καὶ ἀνάστασιν πολλῶν ἐν τῷ Ἰσραὴλ καὶ εἰς σημεῖον ἀντιλεγόμενον. καὶ σοῦ δὲ αὐτῆς τὴν ψυχὴν διελεύσεται ῥομφαία, ὅπως ἂν ἀποκαλυφθῶσιν ἐκ πολλῶν καρδιῶν διαλογισμοί. Καὶ ἦν Ἄννα προφῆτις, θυγάτηρ Φανουὴλ, ἐκ φυλῆς Ἀσήρ· αὕτη προβεβηκυῖα ἐν ἡμέραις πολλαῖς, ζήσασα ἔτη μετὰ ἀνδρὸς ἐπταὶ ἀπὸ τῆς παρθενίας αὐτῆς, καὶ αὕτη χήρα ὡς ἐτῶν ὀγδοήκοντα τεσσαράων, ἣ οὐκ ἀφίστατο ἀπὸ τοῦ ἱεροῦ νηστείας καὶ δεήσεσι λατρεύουσα νύκτα καὶ ἡμέραν· καὶ αὕτη αὐτῇ τῇ ὥρᾳ ἐπιστάσα ἀνωμολογεῖτο τῷ Κυρίῳ καὶ ἐλάλει περὶ αὐτοῦ πᾶσι τοῖς προσδεχομένοις λύτρωσιν ἐν Ἱερουσαλήμ. Καὶ ὡς ἐτέλεσαν ἅπαντα τὰ κατὰ τὸν νόμον Κυρίου, ὑπέστρεψαν εἰς τὴν Γαλιλαίαν εἰς τὴν πόλιν ἑαυτῶν Ναζαρέτ. Τὸ δὲ παιδίον ἠϋξανε καὶ ἐκραταιοῦτο πνεύματι πληρούμενον σοφίας, καὶ χάρις Θεοῦ ἦν ἐπ' αὐτό.

At that time, the parents brought the child Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every male that opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord”) and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtle doves, or two young pigeons.” Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, looking for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ. And in the Spirit he came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the law, he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said, “Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel.” And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him; and Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, “Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is spoken against (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), that thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.” And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher; she was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years from her virginity, and as a widow till she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. And coming up at that very hour she gave thanks to God, and spoke of him to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. And when they had performed everything according to the law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own city, Nazareth. And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon 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 February 2, 2025

**Ushers on Duty:** Cheryl and Erick Schwartzkopf

**Video:** Natalia S. **Altar Servers:** All Adult/Youth Servers

**Epistle Readers:** Pete Tsamolias (Greek); Caroline Saratsiotis (English)

**Fellowship Host (Thank You!):** Denna Bradford and Irene Ray

**PC Member On-Duty:** Jim Lekas



### Today our Holy Orthodox Church commemorates:

- + The Meeting of the Lord Jesus Christ in the Temple (Υπαπαντή)

*When the most pure Mother and Ever-Virgin Mary's forty days of purification had been fulfilled, she took her first-born Son to Jerusalem on this, the fortieth day after His birth, that she might present Him in the temple according to the Law of Moses, which teaches that every first-born male child be dedicated to God, and also that she might offer the sacrifice of a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons, as required by the Law (Luke 2:22-24; Exod. 13:2; Lev. 12:6-8). On this same day, a just and devout man, the greatly aged Symeon, was also present in the temple, being guided by the Holy Spirit. For a long time, this man had been awaiting the salvation of God, and he had been informed by divine revelation that he would not die until he beheld the Lord's Christ. Thus, when he beheld Him at that time and took Him up into his aged arms, he gave glory to God, singing: "Now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace, O Master. . ." And he confessed that he would close his eyes joyfully, since he had seen the Light of revelation for the nations and the Glory of Israel (Luke 2:25-32). From ancient times, the Holy Church has retained this tradition of the churching of the mother and new-born child on the fortieth day and of the reading of prayers of purification.*

*The Apodosis of the Feast of the Meeting in the Temple is on the 9th of February.*

- + The Two Holy Martyr Agathodoros (Αγαθόδωρος) of Tyana in Cappadocia

- + The New Martyr Jordan (Ιορδάνης) of Trebizond (+1650)

*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 Meeting of the Lord (Χαίρει κεχαριτωμένη, First Mode):*

Lady full of grace, rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, for Christ our God, the Sun of righteousness has risen from you and He illumined those in darkness. And you, righteous Elder, be glad in heart, receiving in your embraces the One who liberates our souls and bestows on us the Resurrection. (*Sung before the Small Entrance and after the Resurrectional Hymn. Greek text found in hymnal on pg. 212*)

- *Entrance Hymn for the Meeting (Εγνώρισε Κύριος):*

The Lord made known His salvation in the sight of all the Gentiles. Save us, O Son of God, risen from the dead. We sing to You, Alleluia.

- *Weekly Resurrectional Hymn (Κατέλυσας τω Σταυρώ 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*)

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

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

- *Hymn of the Holy Cross is not sung today.*

- *The Kontakion of Presentation of Christ, (Ο μήτραν παρθενικήν, First Mode):*

You sanctified the womb of the Virgin by Your birth, and by Your presentation You blessed the hands of Symeon, when You came, and You saved us, O Christ our God. Now we pray You give peace to Your world at war, and let love for Your people prevail in all, O only benevolent Lord. (*Greek Text found in hymnal on pg.250*)

## Guidance, Prayer Requests, and Announcements

### *This Week's Daily*

**Scripture Readings and Fasting Guidance:**  
**Sunday, February 2: Meeting of the Lord—No Fasting:**

Luke 2:25-32; Hebrews 7:7-17; Luke 2:22-40

**Monday, February 3—No Fasting:**

Hebrews 9:11-14; Luke 2:25-38

**Tuesday, February 4—No Fasting:**

I Peter 3:10-22; Mark 12:18-27

**Wednesday, February 5—Strict Fast:**

I Peter 4:1-11; Mark 12:28-37

**Thursday, February 6: St. Photios—No Fasting:**

John 10:1-9; Hebrews 7:26-28, 8:1-2; John 10:9-16

**Friday, February 7—Strict Fast:**

II Peter 1:1-10; Mark 13:1-8

**Saturday, February 8—No Fasting:**

Ephesians 2:4-10; Matthew 10:16-22

### *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, Marion

### *Prayers for those recently reposed:*

Fr. Thomas FitzGerald (+December 29), Fr. George Pallas (+January 15)

### *Prayers for expecting mothers:*

Schylar J.

### *Prayers for Military Personnel and Their Families:*

Aubriana Butchko, Kyle Glotzbach, Robert Ice, Aleksander Zajac

### *Prayers for our Catechumens and Inquirers into the Orthodox Church:*

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

### *Weekly Wisdom of the Fathers:*

**St. John of Shanghai and San Francisco (+1966)**, instructing us further in our preparation for Holy Communion: "For a man's complete sanctification, the body of the servant of the Lord must be united with the Body of Christ, and this is accomplished in the Mystery of Holy Communion. The true Body and the true Blood of Christ which we receive become part of the great Body of Christ.

Of course, for union with Christ, the mere conjoining of our body with the Body of Christ does not suffice. The consumption of the Body of Christ becomes beneficial when in spirit we strive towards Him and unite ourselves with Him. Receiving the Body of Christ, while turning away from Him in spirit, is like the contact with Christ which they had who struck Him and mocked and crucified Him. Their contact with Him served not for their salvation and healing, but for their condemnation. But those who partake with piety, love and readiness to serve

Him, closely unite themselves with Him and become instruments of His Divine will."

### *Upcoming Celebrations This Week*

**Name Days—Chronia Polla, Many Years!**  
None in the Records

### ***Birthdays—Happy Birthday!***

February 3: Sean Morris

February 4: Harry Zaloumes

February 5: Richard Stewart

February 6: Louis Bennette

February 8: Brad Perry, Dimitris Saratsiotis

### ***Anniversaries—Congratulatsion!***

February 4: Louis and Maggie Bennette

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

### *Announcements:*

\* We thank and congratulate all of our Youth who are participating today in the **St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival**. We also are thankful for those who are assisting in the Festival, especially our judges: Vuk Habic (from our parish), Maria Linebaugh (from Holy Transfiguration, Marietta), and Sarah Kalaris (from Annunciation, Mobile). Please be sure to save the date for the District Level Oratorical Festival: Saturday, March 29 in Peachtree City!

\* We are thankful for the joyful ministry of all of our Godparents on this **Godparent Sunday**. Be sure to take a photograph with your Godparent/Godchild today in the Coffee Fellowship—there is a special picture frame! May God bless our Godparents—and may God grant eternal rest to our Godparents who have reposed.

\* **Adult Greek School** will be taking place at approximately 12:45pm in the Chapel.

\* **Youth:** Save the Date for upcoming Youth outings on Sunday, February 23 and Sunday, March 23 taking place after Coffee Fellowship/Greek School.

\* **Choir Practice** is planned in the month of February for Wednesday, February 5 and 19 at 6:30pm. If you are in choir, we hope you can make it as we continue to work on our current material and plan for new material!

\* **The Orthodox Book Study** continues this Tuesday at 11:00am at Taste and See in Macon as we continue to read the book *Rediscovering the Goodness of Creation: A Manual for Recovering Gnostics* by Robin Phillips. Even if you haven't joined yet, feel free to come and participate in the discussion!

\* The next **Introduction to the Orthodox Church** class will be taking place this coming Saturday, February 8 at 3:30pm in the Library and on Zoom. The topic will be "Prayer, Asceticism, and Monasticism." Please contact Father Theodore for more information and/or the Zoom link.

\* For the **Altar Boys and St. Photini Handmaiden**, please save the date for a meeting taking place after Sunday School on Sunday, February 23. This will be important as we prepare for Great Lent!