



HOLY CROSS

GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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

Sunday, February 9, 2025

Leave-taking of the Meeting of the Lord (Υπαπαντή)

Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee

Eothinon/Orthros Gospel: Eleventh (John 21:14-25)

Mode of the Week: Plagal of the Fourth/Πλ. του Τετάρτου

QR Codes (scan with smart phone for service texts)

Orthros, part 1



Orthros, part 2



Divine Liturgy



Upcoming Schedule

<i>Today, 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 Bible Study/Youth Greek School 12:45pm
<i>Monday, February 10</i>	9:30am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy on the Feast Day of St. Haralambos
<i>Tuesday, February 11</i>	6:30pm Parish Council Meeting
<i>Wednesday, February 12</i>	9:00am Orthodox Book Study (at Taste and See in Macon)
<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
<i>Sunday, February 23</i>	9:15am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy on Judgement (Meatfare) Sunday Sunday School for the Youth after Holy Communion Memorial Service for the Saturday of the Souls at the end of the Liturgy Coffee Fellowship in the Parish House after the Divine Liturgy 12:15pm Handmaidens and Altar Server Meetings in the Church 12:45pm Bible Study/Youth Greek School 2:00pm Youth Activity
<i>Tuesday, February 25</i>	11:00am Orthodox Book Study (at Taste and See in Macon)
<i>Wednesday, February 26</i>	5:30pm Vespers 6:30pm Introduction to the Orthodox Church Class (in the Library/Zoom)
<i>Saturday, March 1</i>	9:30am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy on Cheesefare Saturday Memorial Service for the Saturday of the Souls at the end of the Liturgy 3:00pm Holy Baptism of Mary Elizabeth Hollowell

Upcoming Epistle Readers: (2/16) Chad Ridley, Sarah Drakopoulos; (2/23) Kostas Iakovidis, Chrissy Zdrakas
Upcoming PC Member On-Duty: (2/16) Maria Spicer; (2/23) Sarah Drakopoulos;(3/2) Chad Ridley; (3/9) Gray Y.
Upcoming Ushers: (2/10) Norm+Eleni A.; (2/16) John A., Cleo B.; (2/19) James S.; (2/23) Sarah D., Joanna P.
Upcoming Video Operators: (2/16) David Z.; (2/23) Gray/David N; (3/2) Natalia S.; (3/3) OPEN; (3/5) Natalia S.
Fellowship Hosts: (2/16) Cristina Lekas; (2/23) Cleo Bennette; (3/2) Eleftheria Trettel; (3/9) Tassie Cantrell

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

Εὐξασθε καὶ ἀπόδοτε Κυρίῳ τῷ
Θεῷ ἡμῶν.

Στίχ. Γνωστὸς ἐν τῇ Ἰουδαίᾳ ὁ
Θεός, ἐν τῷ Ἰσραὴλ μέγα τὸ ὄνομα
αὐτοῦ.

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Πρὸς Τιμόθεον Β' Ἐπιστολῆς
Παύλου τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα.

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Τέκνον Τιμόθεε,
παρηκολούθηκάς μου τῇ
διδασκαλίᾳ, τῇ ἀγωγῇ, τῇ
προθέσει, τῇ πίστει, τῇ
μακροθυμίᾳ, τῇ ἀγάπῃ, τῇ
ὑπομονῇ, τοῖς διωγμοῖς, τοῖς
παθήμασιν, οἷά μοι ἐγένοντο ἐν
Ἀντιοχείᾳ, ἐν Ἰκονίῳ, ἐν
Λύστροις, οἴους διωγμούς
ὑπήνεγκα! καὶ ἐκ πάντων με
ἔρρύσατο ὁ Κύριος. καὶ πάντες δὲ
οἱ θέλοντες εὐσεβῶς ζῆν ἐν
Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ διωχθήσονται·
πονηροὶ δὲ ἄνθρωποι καὶ γόητες
προκόψουσιν ἐπὶ τὸ χεῖρον,
πλανῶντες καὶ πλανώμενοι. σὺ δὲ
μένε ἐν οἷς ἔμαθες καὶ ἐπιστάθης,
εἰδὼς παρὰ τίνος ἔμαθες, καὶ ὅτι
ἀπὸ βρέφους τὰ ἱερά γράμματα
οἶδας, τὰ δυνάμενά σε σοφίσει εἰς
σωτηρίαν διὰ πίστεως τῆς ἐν
Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ.

*Pray and return to the Lord Your
God.*

*Verse: In Judah God is known;
His name is great in Israel.
(Psalm 75)*

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*The reading is from Paul's
Second Letter to Timothy.
(3:10-15)*

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Timothy, my son, you have
observed my teaching, my
conduct, my aim in life, my faith,
my patience, my love, my
steadfastness, my persecutions,
my sufferings, what befell me at
Antioch, at Iconion, and at
Lystra, what persecutions I
endured; yet from them all the
Lord rescued me. Indeed all who
desire to live a godly life in Christ
Jesus will be persecuted, while
evil men and impostors will go on
from bad to worse, deceivers and
deceived. But as for you, continue
in what you have learned and
have firmly believed, knowing
from whom you learned it and
how from childhood you have
been acquainted with the sacred
writings which are able to in-
struct you for salvation through
faith in Christ Jesus.

The Holy Gospel Reading according to St. Luke (18:10-14)

Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee

Εἶπεν ὁ Κύριος τὴν
παραβολὴν ταύτην· ἄνθρωποι
δύο ἀνέβησαν εἰς τὸ ἱερόν
προσεύξασθαι, ὁ εἷς
Φαρισαῖος καὶ ὁ ἕτερος
τελώνης. ὁ Φαρισαῖος σταθεὶς
πρὸς ἑαυτὸν ταῦτα
προσηύχετο· ὁ Θεός,
εὐχαριστῶ σοι ὅτι οὐκ εἰμι
ὡσπερ οἱ λοιποὶ τῶν
ἀνθρώπων, ἄρπαγες, ἄδικοι,
μοιχοί, ἢ καὶ ὡς οὗτος ὁ
τελώνης· νηστεύω δις τοῦ
σαββάτου, ἀποδεκατῶ πάντα
ὅσα κτῶμαι. καὶ ὁ τελώνης
μακρόθεν ἐστῶς οὐκ ἤθελεν
οὐδὲ τοὺς ὀφθαλμοὺς εἰς τὸν
οὐρανὸν ἐπάραι, ἀλλ' ἔτυπεν
εἰς τὸ στήθος αὐτοῦ λέγων· ὁ
Θεός, ἰλάσθητί μοι τῷ
ἁμαρτωλῷ. λέγω ὑμῖν, κατέβη
οὗτος δεδικαιωμένος εἰς τὸν
οἶκον αὐτοῦ ἢ γὰρ ἐκεῖνος·
ὅτι πᾶς ὁ ὑψῶν ἑαυτὸν
ταπεινωθήσεται, ὁ δὲ
ταπεινῶν ἑαυτὸν ὑψωθήσεται.

The Lord said this parable,
“Two men went up into the
temple to pray, one a
Pharisee and the other a
tax collector. The Pharisee
stood and prayed thus
with himself, ‘God, I thank
you that I am not like
other men, extortioners,
unjust, adulterers, or even
like this tax collector. I fast
twice a week, I give tithes
of all that I get.’ But the
tax collector, standing far
off, would not even lift up
his eyes to heaven, but
beat his breast, saying,
‘God, be merciful to me a
sinner!’ I tell you, this man
went down to his house
justified rather than the
other; for everyone who
exalts himself will be
humbled, but he who
humbles himself will be
exalted.”

HOLY CROSS

GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

Rev. Fr. Theodore Ehmer

Προϊστάμενος/Presiding Priest

E-mail: frtheodore@holycrossga.org

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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 9, 2025

Ushers on Duty: Cheryl and Erick Schwartzkopf

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

Epistle Readers: Helen Troupous (Greek); Cleo Bennette (English)

Fellowship Host (Thank You!): Natalia Saratsiotis

PC Member On-Duty: John Apostolou



Today our Holy Orthodox Church commemorates:

- + Leave-taking of the Feast of the Meeting of the Lord Jesus Christ in the Temple (Υπαπαντή)
- + Beginning of the Triodion: Sunday of the Publican and the Pharisee (Κυριακή του Τελώνου και Φαρισαίου)

The Pharisees were an ancient sect among the Jews known for their diligent observance of the outward matters of the Law. Although, according to the word of our Lord, they "did all their works to be seen of men", and were hypocrites, because of the apparent holiness of their lives they were thought by all to be righteous, and separate from others, which is what the name Pharisee means. On the other hand, Publicans, collectors of the royal taxes, committed many injustices and extortions for filthy lucre's sake, and all held them to be sinners and unjust. It was therefore according to common opinion that the Lord Jesus in His parable signified a virtuous person by a Pharisee, and a sinner by a Publican, to teach His disciples the harm of pride and the profit of humble-mindedness. Since the chief weapon for virtue is humility, and the greatest hindrance to it is pride, the divine Fathers have set these three weeks before the Forty-day Fast as a preparation for the spiritual struggles of virtue. This present week they have called Harbinger, since it declares that the Fast is approaching; and they set humility as the foundation for all our spiritual labors by appointing that the parable of the Publican and the Pharisee be read today, even before the Fast begins, to teach, through the repentance and contrite prayer of the Publican, that humility confers upon the sinner forgiveness of all his wicked deeds and raises him up to the greatest heights. **All foods are allowed the week that follows this Sunday.**

- + The Holy Martyr Nikephoros (Νικηφόρος) of Antioch (+257)
- + Our Devout Father Romanos (Ρωμανός) of Cilicia (+5th Century)
- + The Holy Martyrs: Marcellus (Μάρκελλος), Bishop of Sicily; Philagrios (Φιλάργριος), Bishop of Cyprus; and Pancratios (Παγκράτιος), Bishop of Tavromenium (+1st c.)
- + The Holy Hieromartyr Peter (Πέτρος) of Damascus (+743)

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 (Εξ ύψους, Plagal Fourth Mode):*

You descended from on high, O compassionate One, and consented to a three-day burial, to free us from the passions. O Lord, our life and resurrection, glory to You! (Sung after the Small Entrance, Greek Text found in hymnal on pg. 126)

- *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 9: Triodion Begins—No Fasting:

John 21:14-25; II Timothy 3:10-15; Luke 18:10-14

Monday, February 10: St. Haralambos—No Fasting:

Luke 21:12-19; II Timothy 2:1-10; John 15:17-27, 16:1-2

Tuesday, February 11—No Fasting:

Hebrews 4:14-16, 5:1-6; Matthew 10:1, 5-8

Wednesday, February 12—No Fasting:

II Peter 3:1-18; Mark 13:24-31

Thursday, February 13—No Fasting:

I John 1:8-10, 2:1-6; Mark 13:31-37, 14:1-2

Friday, February 14—No Fasting:

I John 2:7-17; Mark 14:3-9

Saturday, February 15—No Fasting:

Philemon 1:1-25; Luke 20:46-47, 21:1-4

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, Kevin, Andy, Karen, Vera, Adam, Debbie, Alberto, Sadith

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 Damascus, in the spirit of the Publican's repentance as we begin the Triodion: "These eight passions should be destroyed as follows: gluttony by self-control; unchastity by desire for God and longing for the blessings held in store; avarice by compassion for the poor; anger by goodwill and love for all men; worldly dejection by spiritual joy; listlessness by patience, perseverance and offering thanks to God; self-esteem by doing good in secret and by praying constantly with a contrite heart; and pride by not judging or despising anyone in the manner of the boastful Pharisee, and by considering oneself the least of all men. When the intellect has been freed in this way from the passions we have described and been raised up to God, it will henceforth live the life of blessedness, receiving the pledge of the Holy Spirit. And when it departs this life, dispassionate and full of true knowledge, it will stand before the light of the Holy Trinity and with the divine angels will shine in glory through all eternity."

Upcoming Celebrations This Week

Name Days—Chronia Polla, Many Years!

February 10: Harry Bennette, Harry Zaloumes

Birthdays—Happy Birthday!

February 11: Ron Sprouse

February 13: John Staurulakis

February 14: Justin Lane

Anniversaries—Congratulations!

February 11: Sophia and Alek Zajac

February 12: Cheryl and George Stefanis

February 14: Eleni and Norman Adams

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

Announcements:

* **Youth Greek School** will be taking place at approximately 12:45pm in the upstairs classroom. **Bible Study** will begin at approximately the same time in the back coffee hour room.

* **Youth:** Save the Date for upcoming Youth outings on Sunday, February 23 (Urban Air in Macon) and Sunday, March 23 (Pickleball) taking place after Coffee Fellowship/Greek School.

* The next **Choir Practice** is planned for Wednesday, February 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 **Wednesday** at 9:00am 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 on Wednesday, February 26 at 6:30pm in the Library and on Zoom. The topic will be "The Virtues and the Holiness of Man." 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!

* **Lent, Holy Week & Pascha Preparations**

have been emailed out. There are many ways to help—adorning icons, providing meals, organizing children, reading, and more! If you'd like to volunteer, contact Natalia Saratsiotis. Scan the QR Code for opportunities. Donations are also welcome. Thank you for your support!



* **Fr. Theodore will be out of town** from late Wednesday evening, February 12 to Tuesday, February 18. If you have an immediate pastoral emergency that needs in-person attention, please contact Fr. Theophan (after the 14th) from St. Innocent at (478) 538-8161. Please also contact Fr. Theodore to let him know of your emergency. **There is Orthros and Divine Liturgy next Sunday here at Holy Cross as we welcome a visiting priest from Augusta.**