

# Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church

SPRING 2025 QUARTERLY BULLETIN



859 First Street | Macon, Georgia 31201 | 478.621.0744

## SUNDAY SERVICES

*(For services during the week,  
please visit our webpage)*

Orthros 9:15am

Divine Liturgy 10:30am

Coffee Fellowship 12:00pm  
(following Liturgy)

## FIND US ONLINE

[www.holycrossga.org](http://www.holycrossga.org)

Facebook:  
HolyCrossMaconGA

Instagram:  
HolyCrossMacon

# Father Theodore's Message

*Today a sacred Pascha has been revealed to us; a Pascha new and holy, a Pascha mystical, a Pascha all-venerable, Pascha, the Redeemer Christ himself; a Pascha that is blameless, a Pascha that is great, a Pascha of believers, a Pascha that has opened for us the gates of Paradise, a Pascha that sanctifies believers all.*  
– from the Stichera of Pascha.



My beloved brothers and sisters in Christ,

It is rather fortuitous that as we begin March, the month in which springtime rushes in, we should also enter the “Lenten Spring” in the words of the hymnography of the Church, the blessed season of Great and Holy Lent. This year, Great Lent begins on March 3rd, Clean Monday, and the forty days ends on Friday, April 11th . After we celebrate Lazarus Saturday and Palm Sunday, we will enter Holy Week and conclude this season with the celebration of Great and Holy Pascha on Sunday, April 20th. This year is also a year that we celebrate the Resurrection on the same day as our brothers and sisters of the other Christian traditions, commonly referred to in these traditions as Easter.

I quoted a hymn from the Paschal service at the beginning of this message. It might seem strange to quote a hymn from Pascha as we are just beginning Great Lent – but when we begin a journey, it is important for us to have the destination in mind, that thing we are journeying towards. As we begin the sacred journey towards Pascha, we may often wonder: Why do we call it Pascha anyways, and not Easter? This may be a perplexing question for both those who are new to Orthodoxy and those who have spent their entire life in the Church. Well, the word Pascha itself is the key. Pascha or Πάσχα in Greek, is the direct translation of the ancient word for Passover – in Hebrew, Pesakh or in Aramaic, Paskha. The Orthodox Study Bible has this to say about the Jewish Feast of Passover:

*Passover, the central rite and symbol of Judaism, is based on the experience of the liberation of the Hebrew people from bondage in Egypt (Ex 12:1-15:21). It is called Passover both because the Lord passed over the homes of the Hebrew, sparing them from the death that came to the first-born in Egypt, and because the Hebrews passed over the Red Sea as if it were dry land. Passover celebrates God's steadfast love and devotion to His people and their freedom in Him.*

*Throughout the rest of the Old Testament, Passover preeminently signifies God's rescue and forging together of His chosen people, Israel. The Lord repeatedly brings this event to mind as He encourages and exhorts His people to return to their covenantal responsibilities (Jdg 6:7-10; 1Kg 10:17-19; Ps 80:10, 11; Jer 11:1-8; Mic 6:1-8).*

*Through His saving work, Christ becomes our Passover. Through Him we experience liberation from sin, death, and the devil. St. Paul exclaims, “Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us. Therefore let us keep the feast” (1Co 5:7, 8). He is the Paschal Lamb (Is 53:7; Jn 1:29; Rev 5:6-14) who gave Himself up in sacrifice “once for all” (Heb 10:10-14) to reconcile us with God.*

As you can see, there is a needful connection between the Passover/Pascha in Christ – He is our Passover/Pascha and we participate and celebrate therein when we celebrate not only Pascha on April 20th, but even every Sunday, we celebrate a “small Pascha” which “is our Passover from death to life, from the land of the dead to the land of the living, from enslavement to the devil to the freedom of the children of God. This Passover was made possible by the incarnation, cross and resurrection of the Redeemer.” (Archimandrite Georgios Grigoriatis) It is good for us to use the term “Pascha” as opposed to “Easter” as it makes a theological statement about our resurrected life in Christ.

Our Lenten journey leading to Pascha is one that leads us to life. But we must not forget that every celebration of the Divine Liturgy, because of the Eucharist, is a celebration of our Lord's resurrection from the dead (see 1 Corinthians 11:26). This Lenten season educates us, strengthens us, and sharpens us to help us to understand what we are truly participating in as Orthodox Christians. And as we mystically participate in Christ's life, may we also respond by following Him and adhering to His life-giving commandments. I pray that for all of us that this Great and Holy Lent is a time of a sharpening of our discernment, fruitfulness in our relationships with one another, and thanksgiving to God for all of the gifts that He showers upon us, chiefly to participate in Him, our Pascha that has opened to us the Gates of Paradise.

Καλή Σαρακοστή, a good and blessed Forty Days to us all!

In Christ's Service,  
Fr. Theodore

# A Note from the Parish Council President

Natalia Saratsiotis, President | [natalia.saratsiotis@gmail.com](mailto:natalia.saratsiotis@gmail.com)

Father Theodore & Fellow Parishioners,

It always amazes me when it is time to write another letter for the Quarterly Bulletin. Time is a precious gift, and we should never take it for granted. This past Thanksgiving, I was blessed to travel to Kenya on a mission trip with my sister's family. One of the most profound lessons—or rather, reminders—from this experience was the importance of appreciating the little things in life.

Recently, I've caught myself thinking about how many years I have left to teach before retirement. Why am I trying to rush through life? Time moves quickly, and we often forget to pause and savor the present. As we enter this new year, I am setting small, meaningful goals to ensure I embrace each moment as it comes. I encourage you to join me in this journey of mindfulness and gratitude.

One recent experience that holds a special place in my heart was our Christmas Caroling event. For those who haven't joined us before, I strongly urge you to come next December. Unfortunately, I couldn't attend all the stops this year due to work, but I'm deeply grateful to Presvytera Stacey for keeping me updated on the group's whereabouts. I was fortunate to join for one stop, and it reminded me of the importance of connecting with our shut-ins and honoring those who have laid the foundation of our beautiful church. These occasions are invaluable and strengthen the bonds within our community.

Over the last three months, we've celebrated the Nativity of our Lord, the Baptism of Christ and the Presentation of Jesus at the Temple—three of the twelve Great Feast days. As we approach the Lenten season and Holy Week, I encourage everyone to take time to understand and embrace the significance of the feast days during this time. For families with children and even the adults, this is an opportunity to slow down and welcome the prayers and teachings with open hearts. Cristina Lekas has done a remarkable job ensuring our bookstore is stocked with resources to help us grow in our faith. As someone born into Orthodoxy, I can assure you that learning about our faith is a lifelong journey.

Regarding Great Lent and Holy Week, many of you may have seen the sign-up list circulating. This is a wonderful opportunity to share your time and talents with Holy Cross. There are simple tasks such as cleaning handouts from the pews, arranging flowers around icons or providing a light Lenten meal after Wednesday night's service. Please review the list and consider offering your assistance. Feeling unsure about doing something alone? Grab a fellow parishioner and volunteer together. If you're interested in helping or have questions, please don't hesitate to reach out. I'll gladly provide guidance. Also, check the calendar in this bulletin or on our webpage for all upcoming services and take advantage of them.

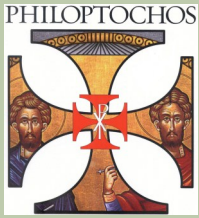
Once again, I am honored to be serving Holy Cross as its President. My prayer is always to place Holy Cross at the center of my priorities. I would like to thank Melanie Moye for her dedicated service over the past two years. She has been an invaluable asset to the Parish Council, and we are sad to see her go. At the same time, I am excited to have Chad Ridley join the team. I know he is going to bring great things to the council. Thank you to Chad and the rest of the Parish Council for your time, talents and dedication to Holy Cross.

I wish all of you a meaningful Lenten Season and may you truly take time to set small, meaningful goals so you, too, can embrace each moment as it comes.

In Christ's love,  
Natalia Saratsiotis

## **2025 PARISH COUNCIL**

Natalia Saratsiotis, President  
Jim Lekas, Vice-President  
John Apostolou, Treasurer  
Maria Spicer, Assistant Treasurer  
Sarah Drakopoulos, Secretary  
Chad Ridley, Assistant Secretary  
Gray Yates, Member-at-Large



## Our Mission:

To promote charitable, benevolent and philanthropic outreach;  
to preserve the sanctity of life and family;  
and to perpetuate and promote our Orthodox faith and traditions.

Dear Fr. Theodore and Fellow Parishioners,

I pray you've had a beautiful start to 2025! In mid-January, we held our first Philoptochos meeting of the year. It was a great turnout and we discussed the opportunities to serve Christ and our neighbors in 2025. We are thankful to our Holy Cross community for supporting our Holiday Tray Fundraiser! It was successful thanks to everyone's hard work donating ingredients, baking, packaging, and purchasing the festive trays!

Our annual Vasilopita Fundraiser was on January 5th. Every Vasilopita was lovingly made and delicious. Special blessings to all the coin recipients: Nikitis Zoumberis, Maria Murphy, Pete Tsamolias, Marcela Chiorescu, Irene Ray, and myself. Your donations helped us raise \$350.00 to send to Saint Basil Academy. I thank everyone that supported this well deserved cause.

Philoptochos will be hosting again this year the Lenten Luncheon on the Sunday of the Holy Cross, March 23rd. This yearly fundraiser is to support Hellenic College Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology, our wonderful Greek Orthodox College and Seminary. Eleni Adams has graciously accepted to be chairwoman. We will also be hosting the Palm Sunday Fish Luncheon on April 13th, with Cheryl Schwartzkopf serving as chairwoman. I thank both ladies in advance!

All ladies are invited to attend the Metropolis of Atlanta Lenten Spiritual Retreat, March 14th-16th, at the Diakonia Retreat Center in Salem, South Carolina. Fr. Dr. Stephen Muse (Orthodox Priest and Pastoral Psychotherapist and Marriage & Family Therapist) will be the presenter. It promises to be an edifying and spiritually fruitful weekend. The cost is \$225 and includes all lodging and meals. Register online now at [atmetropolis.org/spiritual-retreat-2025](http://atmetropolis.org/spiritual-retreat-2025).

This is several months away, but please mark your calendars for the National Philoptochos Children's Medical Fund Luncheon on Saturday, September 27th in Atlanta. The Metropolis of Atlanta Philoptochos is blessed to be hosting this National Biennial Archdiocesan-wide special 20th anniversary event so close to home this year, which has expanded its mission not only to assist young cancer patients, but also to provide grants for innovative research programs to pediatric hospitals throughout the United States, as well as organizations with special programs for children with critical and life threatening illnesses. Tickets are available for purchase now; go to [www.philoptochos.org](http://www.philoptochos.org) for information. Finally, I extend a personal invitation for each woman in our Holy Cross community to join our Philoptochos. The stewardship is \$40 minimum, but can be sponsored if needed, by an anonymous donor. Please join our philanthropic efforts!

Blessed Lent,  
Cleo



Our first Philoptochos meeting of 2025.



Vasilopita Sunday 2025, our Christmas social and a special collection of supplies for the Kolbe Center for women and children.



Philoptochos Go Red Sunday, 2-9-25



### 2024-2025 Philoptochos Board

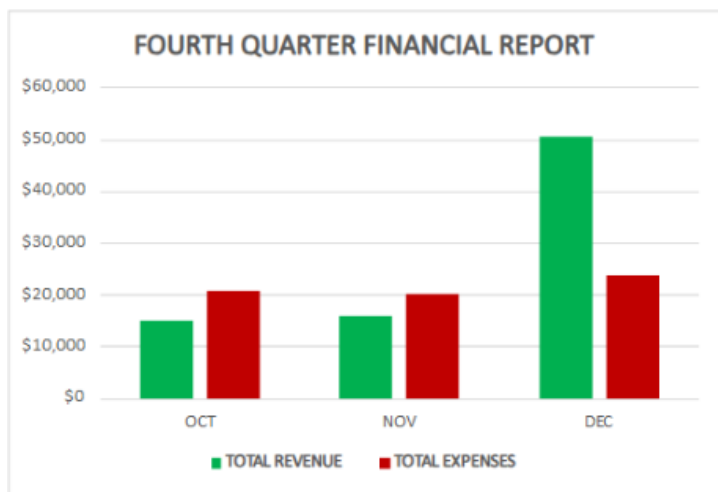
President: Cleo Bennette  
1st VP: Helen Vardy  
2nd VP: Emily Dermatas  
Treasurer: Maria Bronisevsky  
Rec. Secretary: Beth Zoumberis  
Corr. Secretary: Rodica Cazacu  
Member at Large: Denna Bradford  
Advisor: Sarah Drakopoulos



The 2025-2027 Board Elections are coming in May! Please consider running for office. We need YOU... Why? Philoptochos is one of the world's largest philanthropic organizations and we touch lives locally and globally.



## FINANCIAL REPORT



FOURTH QUARTER (OCT-DEC)

	OCT	NOV	DEC
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 15,026.45	\$ 15,830.20	\$ 50,343.81
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 20,683.97	\$ 19,975.11	\$ 23,559.96
NET/DEFICIT	\$ (5,657.52)	\$ (4,144.91)	\$ 26,783.85

**Thank you for all your contributions  
and continued support  
toward the growth  
and future of our Parish!**

Please visit our web page at:  
**[www.holycrossga.org](http://www.holycrossga.org)**

The Offering link will give you all the  
options available for any financial  
giving.

**Venmo & PayPal**  
@HolyCrossMacon  
**CashApp** \$HolyCrossMacon

### STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE 4TH QUARTER (ENDING DECEMBER 31<sup>ST</sup>)

TASSIE CANTRELL, CHARLES GLOTZBACH & BETH ZOUMBERIS

#### Stewardship : 2024

For the year ending 2024, Holy Cross Parish is blessed with 119 Family Units.

Of these, we had the following contributing:

Dedicated Stewardship Cards: 61 Family Units

Contributing Stewards for 2024: 99 Family Units

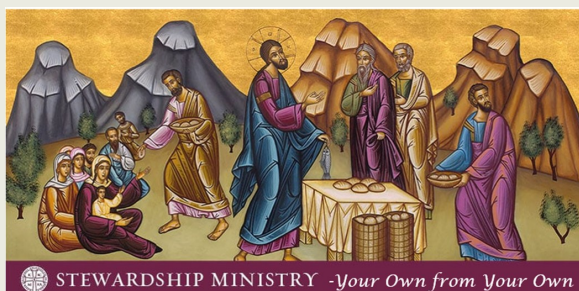
Who is a "Dedicated" Steward? These are members of our Parish who are willing to plan and with intention, provide their Stewardship Commitment Card. I believe 61 cards is the most we have ever had. WAY to GO, HOLY CROSS!!!

#### Stewardship: 2025

So far for the 1st QTR of 2025:

*Commitment Cards Received the First QTR of 2025: 38 Family Units (as of Dec 8th Blessing of Stewardship)*

2025 is off to a great start! New beginnings, new resolutions, new choices to make on how to live out your faith. Stewardship is a big part of our personal Christian journey. It is putting your faith into practice with love and joy in your heart. In many ways, it is also an expression of the deep appreciation and love we have for Fr. Theodore and all the good things Holy Cross Ministries are doing. We want to thank those who have already sent in their Stewardship Commitment Trifold and are Dedicated to Holy Cross. Become a Dedicated Steward! If you have not sent in your Stewardship Commitment Trifold for 2025, don't miss out. We hope and pray for 100% participation. Stewardship Trifolds are in the Narthex next to the Sunday Bulletins. If you have any questions regarding stewardship commitment, please feel free to ask anyone on the Stewardship Committee. You may also always talk with Fr. Theodore.



# Youth

Erick and Cheryl Schwartzkopf  
Youth Ministry Directors  
schwartzecn@yahoo.com

Dear Fr. Theodore and Fellow Parishioners,

Greetings!

We are so proud of the many youth and parents who braved ice skating at the Macon Coliseum on January 19! If you missed skating, I'm pretty confident it will be an annual event! Save the following dates as we plan to make many more memories together!

Glory to God in All Things,

Erick and Cheryl Schwartzkopf



2024 Nativity Pageant  
(Check our Facebook page for dozens of pageant pictures!)

## Upcoming Dates to Note:

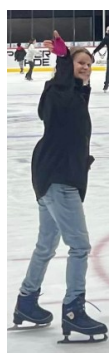
**March 23 – Greek Independence Day Celebration, presented by the Youth Greek School. Immediately following the Divine Liturgy. An Urban Air outing is planned for the afternoon.**

**Youth Event – Afternoon Pickleball, location will be announced later.**

**April 12 – Lazarus Saturday Lenten Retreat with a**



Children's Stewardship Sermon and Sunday School shenanigans!





Youth Ice Skating 2025!



Our Greek School students engaged in their lessons and having a blast!

# OUR JOURNEY TO PASCHA! 2025

Created by Fr. Jonathan Bannon (ACROD)

SUNDAYS	THEMES / GOSPEL READING	HOW TO PARTICIPATE:
Fast - Free Week <b>FEBRUARY 9th</b>	 <i>TRIODION WEEKS</i> <b>Publican and the Pharisee</b> Epistle: 2 Timothy 3:10-15 Gospel: Luke 18:10-14	Show compassion on the poor and distressed. Trust in God, not yourself and ask for His help before every task this week.
Normal Fast Week <b>FEBRUARY 16th</b>	 <b>The Prodigal Son Returns!</b> Epistle: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20 Gospel: Luke 15:11-32	Schedule a Confession. Every morning say, "Today I will be humble." Use up/freeze meats this week.
Meatfare <b>FEBRUARY 23rd</b> FAREWELL TO MEAT TODAY	 <b>The Last Judgement</b> Epistle: 1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2 Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46	Pray facing East this week. Christ is returning from the East and we wait for Him! Use up/freeze dairy this week.
Cheesefare <b>MARCH 2nd</b> FAREWELL TO CHEESE TODAY	 <b>Adam and Eve are cast from Paradise!</b> <i>FORGIVENESS SUNDAY</i> Epistle: Romans 13:11-14:4 Gospel: Matthew 6:14-21	Ask each other for forgiveness each evening this week before bed.
1st Sunday of Lent <b>MARCH 9th</b>	 <i>GREAT LENT BEGINS WITH FORGIVENESS VESPERS</i> <b>SUNDAY of ORTHODOXY</b> Epistle: Hebrews 11:24-26, 32-12:2 Gospel: John 1:43-51	Bring an icon to church for a procession.
2nd Sunday of Lent <b>MARCH 16th</b>	 <b>ST GREGORY PALAMAS</b> Epistle: Hebrews 1:10-2:3 Gospel: Mark 2:1-12	Bring a prayer rope to be blessed today! Use it and pray the Jesus Prayer each day this week.
3rd Sunday of Lent <b>MARCH 23rd</b>	 <b>VENERATION OF THE HOLY CROSS</b> <i>HALF WAY TO PASCHA!</i> Epistle: Hebrews 4:14-5:6 Gospel: Mark 8:34-9:1	Wear your cross to church and kiss the cross each morning with a bow!
4th Sunday of Lent <b>MARCH 30th</b>	 <b>ST JOHN of the LADDER</b> Epistle: Hebrews 6:13-20 Gospel: Mark 9:17-31	Every time you climb stairs this week ask St. John to help you reach Paradise with the sign of the cross!
5th Sunday of Lent <b>APRIL 6th</b>	 <b>ST MARY of EGYPT</b> Epistle: Hebrews 9:11-14 Gospel: Mark 10:32-45	Ask the Theotokos to offer you and the world pure thoughts and ideas this week.
FLOWERY (PALM) SUNDAY! <b>APRIL 13th</b> GREAT WEEK BEGINS	 <i>GREAT AND HOLY WEEK</i> <b>ENTRY OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM</b> Epistle: Philippians 4:4-9 Gospel: John 12:1-18	Place your palm branches and pussywillows behind an icon at home and in your car!
GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY <b>APRIL 18th</b>	 <b>GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY</b> <i>JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS</i> CHECK WITH YOUR PARISH FOR ROYAL HOURS AND VESPERS SCHEDULE	Refrain from TV, Internet & Phones to honor Christ's Death.
FEAST OF FEASTS! <b>APRIL 20th</b> NO FASTING!	 <i>BRIGHT WEEK</i> <b>HOLY PASCHA! (CHRIST IS RISEN!)</b> Epistle: Acts 1:1-8 Gospel: John 1:1-17	Greet everyone with "CHRIST IS RISEN!" & say it before good morning and goodnight!

Dear Holy Cross Family,

Blessed Lent to you all! In your mercy, please forgive me for any unloving words I have spoken or ways that I have hurt your heart or upset you. Our annual St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival on Feb. 2nd (also Godparent Sunday and the Presentation of Christ in the Temple) was a great blessing to witness! Isabelle taught us about an inspiring lesser-known figure in the Bible, Baruch, the Prophet Jeremiah's faithful scribe, and Carter gave us an understanding of the importance of Ecumenical Councils, focusing specifically on the 1st Ecumenical Council (325AD). Several of our youth in 6th grade or younger also participated by sharing prayers, hymns, and excerpts from the Bible. I thank the kids for their courage to share about their Orthodox Faith and the parents for their support! Melanie Moye has been my understudy this year and will be taking over as parish chairperson next year. Make sure you check out the Oratorical Festival re-cap video on our Holy Cross YouTube if you missed it!

Our Sunday School teachers, Mr. Gray and Ms. Helen, and their students have absolutely rocked it so far this year! Make note - the last day of Sunday School along with our traditional celebratory ice-cream sundaes during coffee hour is May 18th. Separately, if your 6th-12th grade kids, grandchildren, or godchildren have never experienced our awesome Metropolis of Atlanta St. Stephen's Summer Camp at the DRC in South Carolina, this is the year to send them! Choose 1 of 5 weeks, starting June 22nd and ending July 26th. It sells out FAST because it's so good! Grant opportunities to assist with the cost are available for each one of our Holy Cross campers that attends!

Love in Christ,  
Presvytera Stacey  
Sunday School Director



2025 St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival Parish Level Participants along with their coaches Melanie Moye and Presvytera Stacey and under the leadership of Fr. Theodore.



We're so proud of our Youth and their courage to research a topic, prepare, and deliver a speech about their Orthodox Faith.

Congratulations to the Senior Division Finalists Isabelle Saratsiotis (1st) and Carter Zoumberis (2nd) who both advanced to the District Level Festival to be held in Peachtree City on March 29.

We wish them good luck! We also thank our esteemed judges Maria Linebaugh, Sarah Kalaris, and Vuk Habic, and our timekeeper John Apostolou.







Spreading Joy...  
 Christmas  
 Caroling  
 2024



**Pet Blessing in honor of St. Modestos for all creatures great and small.**



In Memory of our beloved  
 Presvytera Kalliopi Vastakis.  
 May her memory be  
 Eternal!



**NOT-SO-YOUNG-ADULT ADDITION!!!**

NOW INCLUDING ALL AGES 40+

If you are interested in being added to the NSYA Group Outing Messages,  
 please contact Beth Zoumberis.

**Church Fellowship out and  
 about...**

Holy Cross Young Adult Ministry at Fall  
 Line and the NSYAs attending the Mercer  
 Basketball game.

~  
 Tuesday Morning Bible Study at Taste &  
 See Coffee Shop & Gallery



*Holy Cross softly  
 blanketed with snow  
 on January 22, 2025...*

# GREEK SPRING FLING

GYROS · GREEK FRIES · LOUKANIKO  
PASTITSIO · SPANAKOPITA  
LOUKOUMADES · BAKLAVA

APRIL 26, 2025 11AM – 7PM

HOLY CROSS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH  
859 FIRST STREET | DOWNTOWN MACON  
WWW.HOLYCROSSGA.ORG/GREEK-FESTIVAL

**CALLING ALL GOYANS,  
YOUNG ADULTS &  
NOT-SO-YOUNG ADULTS!**

We need your help for the upcoming Spring Fling. We will be setting up Friday after work (time to be announced closer to date). We also need help during the Spring Fling.

Please contact a Festival Chairman if you have any questions. Also, an event has been posted on Social Media please share with all your friends and family!

## Greek Independence Day Presentation



Sunday,  
March 23rd,  
2025

MARK  
YOUR  
CALENDARS!

Ζήτω  
η Ελλάδα!

**Sunday of Orthodoxy**  
March 9, 2025 Vespers at 5:00 pm  
**The Invisible Made Visible**  
The Greek Orthodox Cathedral  
of the Annunciation  
2500 Clairmont Road NE, Atlanta, GA  
Guest Speaker: Fr. Barnabas Powell  
Lenten Reception to Follow in Carlos Hall



**SEPT. 13, 2025**  
**SAVE THE DATE!**

### Special invitation from St. Innocent:

Living Orthodoxy

A Lenten Retreat with Dr Eve Tibbs

Author of: A Basic Guide to Eastern Orthodox Theology:  
Introducing Beliefs and Practices

Saturday, March 15th  
12:00 - 5:30

Join us for a special Lenten Retreat.

We are excited to have Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church joining us for this event. The retreat will be followed by Great Vespers at 4:30 pm.

During the retreat, Dr. Tibbs will be presenting three engaging sessions:

1. First Presentation (12-1 pm): "The Church: A Forest and a Single Tree" - Discover the unity in our worship practices and why we cherish them.
2. Second Presentation (1:20-2:20 pm): "Great Lent: A New Hope" - Explore the significance of the Annunciation and the powerful Akathist Hymn.
3. Third Presentation (2:40-3:40 pm): "Seeing the Gospel" - Dive into the beauty of icons depicting Holy Week and Pascha, reflecting the God who desires to reveal Himself to us. We look forward to a day of learning, reflection, and fellowship with you. Come join us for an enlightening and inspiring retreat!



**American Red Cross**  
**BLOOD DRIVE**  
MARCH 27TH & MAY 28TH  
3PM—7PM | PARISH HOUSE  
Give Blood • Give Life

SCAN THE QR CODE  
TO SCHEDULE YOUR  
APPOINTMENT TODAY!  
PLEASE CONSIDER  
SIGNING UP AND  
DONATING BLOOD!



# HOLY SACRAMENTS & SERVICES

## Catechumen



On December 9th, Sebastian received the blessing to become a catechumen. May he be found worthy of Holy Baptism in due time!

We witnessed the Enthronement of His Eminence  
Metropolitan Sevastianos ~ January 25, 2025  
AXIOS Metropolitan Sevastianos!



## **Noteworthy...**

February 2nd to the 8th, Mike Cantrell, along with his daughter Betty Maxwell, took the opportunity to attend the Introductory Byzantine Chant class sponsored by The Liturgical Arts Academy (TLAA). This basic course was taught by protopsaltes Sam Herron and John Boyer. It took place at the Diakonia Retreat Center in South Carolina and was, for Mike, "a transformative experience." He described it as an opportunity for both his spiritual reflection and an opportunity to become a more meaningful participant in the life of Holy Cross Macon. The Panagia Chapel is a beautiful edifice for practicing the art of Byzantine chant and the TLAA makes this possible. Others can learn more about these and other opportunities via the Metropolis Website.



**Congratulations & God Grant You Many Years!**

# PC ON DUTY, EPISTLE READERS & FELLOWSHIP HOUR SCHEDULE

DATE	PC MEMBER ON DUTY	GREEK READER	ENGLISH READER	FELLOWSHIP HOST
March 2	Chad Ridley	Kostas Iakovidis	René Esquivel	Eleftheria Trettel
March 9	Gray Yates	George Saratsiotis	Isabelle Saratsiotis	Tassie Cantrell
March 16	Natalia Saratsiotis	Aleca Hortman	Mike Cantrell	Chad Ridley
March 23	Jim Lekas	Haris Sorovigas	James Scarborough	Philoptochos (Eleni Adams)
March 30	John Apostolou	Pete Tsamolias	Carter Zoumberis	Haris Sorovigas
April 6	Maria Spicer	Chad Ridley	Beth Zoumberis	Katerina Iakovidis
April 13	Sarah Drakopoulos	Kostas Iakovidis	Richard Stewart	Philoptochos
April 20	Chad Ridley	George Saratsiotis	Cheryl Schwartzkopf	Parish Council
April 27	Gray Yates	Haris Sorovigas	Charles Glotzbach	Despina Passias
May 4	Natalia Saratsiotis	Helen Troupous	Caroline Saratsiotis	Eleni Adams
May 11	Jim Lekas	Pete Tsamolias	Cleo Bennette	Maria McCluskey
May 18	John Apostolou	Chad Ridley	Sarah Drakopoulos	Maria Bronisevsky & Joanna Patronis
May 25	Maria Spicer	Kostas Iakovidis	Chrissy Zdrakas	Antigone Mihalakis

## BIRTHDAYS, NAME DAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

If you would like your birthday, Name Day, and/or anniversary listed in our weekly bulletins or if there is a correction that needs to be made, please email the office and we will add it to our master list. Please email [office@holycrossga.org](mailto:office@holycrossga.org) for any corrections.

### March

3.02	*Chris Berberidis (B)		*Sofia Danforth (B)		*Mary Klaire Zoumberis (B)
3.09	*Theo Drakopoulos (N)		*Christine Sprouse (B)	5.04	*Sarah Drakopoulos (B)
3.10	*Andrew Adams (B)	4.23	*Georgia Karras (N)		*Maria Mahoney (B)
3.13	*Anne Gordy (B)		*George Drakopoulos (N)	5.05	*Theo Drakopoulos (B)
3.14	*Chloe Goss (B)		*Richard "George" Stewart (N)	5.06	*Beth and David Zoumberis (A)
3.17	*Norman Adams (B)		*George Saratsiotis (N)		*Paul Vrahiotes (B)
	*Alexa Economopoulos (N)		*Georgia Saratsiotis (N)	5.08	*Alyssa Syribeys (B)
	*Alexia Passias (N)		*George Lane (N)	5.10	*Rebekah Bradford (B)
3.19	*Paige Crouse (B)		*George Cazacu (N)		*Marianna and Justin Lane (A)
3.20	*Henry Gordy (N)		*George Stefanis (N)	5.12	*Katina Cacavias (B)
3.21	*Pete Nicholas (B)		*Georgios Tarasidis (N)	5.17	*Antonios Roden (B)
3.23	*Mary Hornbaker (B)		*George Benjamin Davis (N)	5.19	*David Lee Bradford (B)
3.26	*Charles Glotzbach (B)		*George Iakovidis (N)	5.21	*Denna Bradford (N)
	*Katerina Iakovidis (B)		*Tennessee George Morris (N)		*Eleni Adams (N)
3.28	*Mary Katherine Saratsiotis (B)		*Norberto Hernandez (N)		*Eleni Dermatas (N)
	*David Needham (B)		*George Gordy (N)		*Eleni Saratsiotis (N)
3.30	*Mikey Cantrell (B)	4.24	*Jace "George" Johnson (N)		*Kostas Iakovidis (N)
	*Lucas Lekas (B)		*Beth Zoumberis (N)		*Helen Vardy (N)
	*Peter Tsamolias (B)		*Caroline "Elizabeth" Saratsiotis (N)		*Peyton "Constantine" Ward (N, B)
	*Joan Cabral (B)		*Elizabeth Saratsiotis (N)	5.22	*Ana-Maria Filimon (B)
			*Tony Bennette (B)	5.23	*David Zoumberis (B)
			*Maggie "Elizabeth" Bennette (N)	5.26	*Cleo and Tony Bennette (A)
		4.25	*Maria and Greg Spicer (A)		*Erzebet Santon (B)
			*Elizabeth Saratsiotis (B)	5.29	*Nick Dermatas (B)
		4.26	*Nadia-Gabriela Cazacu (B)	5.30	*Bessie Andros (B)
			*Tony Kallergis (B)		*Thomas Roden (B)
			*Jace Johnson (B)		
		4.27	*Tom Zdrakas (N)		
			*Thomas Roden (N)		
		4.28	*Ray & Helen Vardy (A)		
		4.29	*George Lane (B)		
			*Eleni Saratsiotis (B)		
			*Maria Murphy (B)		
			*Wyatt "Jason" Morris (N)		
		4.30	*Despina Passias (B)		
			*Mina Stewart (N)		

### April

4.04	*Eleni Dermatas Evans (B)
	*Cheryl Stefanis (B)
4.06	*Aleca Hortman (B)
4.08	*John Santon (B)
4.10	*Jim Lekas (N)
4.11	*Effie Morris (B)
4.12	*Christine Nicholas (B)
4.13	*Betty & Spencer Maxwell (A)
4.15	*Leo Economopoulos (N)
4.16	*Mary Monika Robinson (B)
4.17	*Tim Murphy (B)
4.18	*Cornelius Chiorescu (B)
4.19	*Georgia Karras (B)
4.20	*Stacey Goss (N)
	*Chloe Goss (N)
	*Tassie Cantrell (N)
4.21	*Mina Stewart (B)

### May

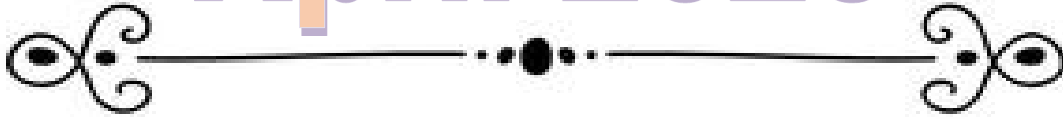
5.01	*Taylor Zoumberis (B)
5.03	*Tennessee Morris (B)
	*Dragos Filimon (B)

# March 2025

Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

						1 <b>Cheesefare Saturday</b> 9:30am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy + Memorial Service
2 <b>Forgiveness Sunday</b> 9:15am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy (Sunday School following Communion) 12:00pm Fellowship 12:45pm Adult Greek School 1:30pm Forgiveness Vespers	3 <b>Start of Great Lent (Clean Monday)</b> 5:30pm Great Compline	4 11:00am Orthodox Book Study	5 5:45pm 9th Hour & Pre-Sanctified Liturgy 7:00pm Light Lenten Meal & Spiritual Discussion	6	7 6:00pm 1st Salutations to the Theotokos	8 <b>Miracle of St. Theodore + The Kollyva</b> 9:30am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy + Memorial Service 3:45pm Adult Catechumen Class 5:00 Great Vespers
9 <b>Sunday of Orthodoxy</b> 9:15 am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy (No Sunday School) 12:00pm Fellowship 12:45pm Bible Study/ Youth Greek School 5:00pm Pan-Orthodox Vespers @ Atlanta Cathedral	10	11 3:30pm Orthodox Book Study 5:30pm Great Compline 6:30pm Parish Council Meeting	12 5:45pm 9th Hour & Pre-Sanctified Liturgy 7:00pm Light Lenten Meal & Spiritual Discussion	13	14 6:00pm 2nd Salutations to the Theotokos	15 12:00-4:30pm Lenten Retreat with Dr. Eve Tibbs (@ St. Innocent) 4:30pm Pan-Orthodox Great Vespers (@ St. Innocent)
16 <b>Sunday of St. Gregory Palamas</b> 9:15am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy (Sunday School following Communion) 12:00pm Fellowship 12:30pm Spring General Assembly	17 <b>St. Alexios</b>	18	19 5:45pm 9th Hour & Pre-Sanctified Liturgy 7:00pm Light Lenten Meal & Spiritual Discussion	20 11:00am Orthodox Book Study 5:30pm Great Compline	21 6:00pm 3rd Salutations to the Theotokos	22 3:45 Adult Catechumen Class 5:00 Great Vespers
23 <b>Sunday of the Holy Cross</b> 9:15am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy (No Sunday School) Greek Independence Day presentation to follow Liturgy 12:30pm Lenten Luncheon 1:00pm Adult Greek School	24	25 <b>Annunciation of the Theotokos Greek Independence Day</b> 9:30am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy 12:30pm Orthodox Book Study	26 5:45pm 9th Hour & Pre-Sanctified Liturgy 7:00pm Light Lenten Meal & Spiritual Discussion	27 3:00pm—7:00pm Blood Drive 5:30pm Great Compline	28 6:00pm 4th Salutations to the Theotokos	29 3:45pm Byzantine Chant Class 5:00 Great Vespers  District Oratorical Festival (Peachtree City)
30 <b>Sunday of St. John Climacus</b> 9:15am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy (Sunday School following Communion) 12:00pm Fellowship 12:45pm Bible Study / Youth Greek School	31	<b>Fasting Guide as prescribed by the Church:</b>	<i>This color denotes a Strict Fast Day (basically, vegan/dry eating)</i>	<i>This color denotes an Oil +Wine permissible Fasting day, yet still vegan</i>	<i>This color denotes a Fish permissible Fasting Day, but without meat and dairy products</i>	<i>This color denotes a Cheese permissible Fasting Day, but without meat products</i>

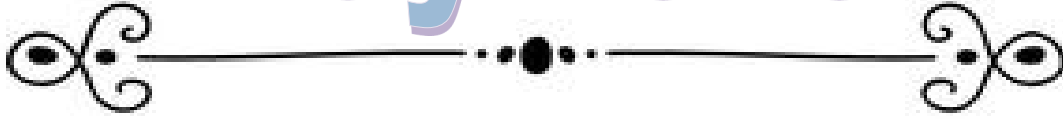
# April 2025



**Mon                      Tue                      Wed                      Thu                      Fri                      Sat**

		1 11:00am Orthodox Book Study 5:30pm Great Compline	2 5:45pm 9th Hour & Pre-Sanctified Liturgy 7:00pm Light Lenten Meal & Spiritual Discussion	3 9:30am Orthros + Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete	4 6:00pm Akathist Hymn	5 3:45pm Adult Catechumen Class 5:00 Great Vespers
6 <b>Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt</b> 9:15am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy (Sunday School following Communion) 12:00pm Fellowship 12:30pm Usher Meeting w/ Parish Council 12:45pm Adult Greek School	7	8 11:00am Orthodox Book Study 5:30pm Great Compline	9 5:45pm 9th Hour & Pre-Sanctified Liturgy 7:00pm Light Lenten Meal & Spiritual Discussion	10	11	12 <b>Lazarus Saturday</b> 9:30am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy 12:00pm-3:00pm Youth Retreat with Lenten Pancakes 3:00pm Great Vespers
13 <b>Palm Sunday</b> 9:15am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy (No Sunday School) 12:00pm Fellowship 12:45pm Bible Study / Youth Greek School 7:00pm Bridegroom Service	14 <b>Holy Monday</b> 7:00pm Bridegroom Service	15 <b>Holy Tuesday</b> 7:00pm Bridegroom Service	16 <b>Holy Wednesday</b> 9:30am Pre-Sanctified Liturgy 6:00pm Orthros of Holy Thursday & Holy Unction	17 <b>Holy Thursday</b> 9:30am Vesperal Liturgy 6:00pm 12 Gospels—Passion Service	18 <b>Holy Friday</b> 9:30am Royal Hours 3:00pm Apokathilosis 7:00pm Epitaphios Service	19 <b>Holy Saturday</b> 9:30am Vesperal Liturgy 11:00pm Anastasi—Resurrection Service
20 <b>Great &amp; Holy Pascha</b> 12:00pm Agape Vespers 1:00pm Pascha Picnic & Easter Egg Hunter	21	22 11:00am Orthodox Book Study 6:30pm Parish Council Meeting	23 <b>St. George</b> 9:30am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy	24	25 <b>Life-Giving Spring of the Theotokos</b> <b>Mark the Apostle &amp; Evangelist</b> 9:30am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy	26 11:00am-7:00pm Spring Fling 5:00pm Great Vespers
27 <b>Thomas Sunday</b> 9:15am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy (Sunday School following Communion) 12:00pm Fellowship 12:45pm Adult Greek School	28	29 11:00am Orthodox Book Study	30 <b>James the Apostle and brother of St. John the Theologian</b> 5:30pm Vespers			
		<b>Fasting Guide as prescribed by the Church:</b>	<i>This color denotes a Strict Fast Day (basically, vegan/dry eating)</i>	<i>This color denotes an Oil +Wine permissible Fasting day, yet still vegan</i>	<i>This color denotes a Fish permissible Fasting Day, but without meat and dairy products</i>	<i>This color denotes a Cheese permissible Fasting Day, but without meat products</i>

# May 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 3:45pm Adult Catechumen Class 5:00pm Great Vespers  Metropolis Oratorical Festival (Savannah)
4 <b>Sunday of the Myrrh-Bearing Women</b> 9:15am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy (Sunday School following Communion) 12:00pm Fellowship 12:30p Philoptochos Elections 12:45pm Bible Study/ Youth Greek School	5	6 11:00am Orthodox Book Study	7 5:30pm Vespers	8	9	10 3:45pm Byzantine Chant Class 5:00pm Great Vespers
11 <b>Mother's Day Sunday of the Paralytic</b> 9:15am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy (Sunday School following Communion) 12:00pm Fellowship 12:45pm Adult Greek School	12	13 5:00pm Orthros 6:00pm Divine Liturgy for Mid-Pentecost	14 <b>Mid Pentecost</b>	15	16	17 5:00 pm Readers Vespers
18 <b>Sunday of the Samaritan Woman</b> 9:15am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy (Sunday School following Communion) Last Day of Sunday School 12:00pm Fellowship 12:45pm Bible Study/Youth Greek School	19	20 11:00am Orthodox Book Study 6:30pm Parish Council Meeting	21 <b>Sts. Constantine &amp; Helen</b> 9:30am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy	22	23	24 3:45pm Adult Catechumen Class 5:00pm Great Vespers
25 <b>Sunday of the Blind Man</b> 9:15am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy 12:00pm Fellowship 12:45pm Adult Greek School	26 <b>MEMORIAL DAY</b> OFFICE CLOSED	27 11:00am Orthodox Book Study	28 <b>Leave-taking of Pascha</b> 9:30am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy 3:00pm—7:00pm Blood Drive 5:30pm Great Vespers	29 <b>Holy Ascension</b> 9:30am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy	30 National Oratorical Festival (Pittsburgh, PA)	31 3:45pm Byzantine Chant Class 5:00pm Great Vespers  Holy Cross Summer Picnic (tentative)
		<b>Fasting Guide as prescribed by the Church:</b>	<i>This color denotes a Strict Fast Day (basically, vegan/dry eating)</i>	<i>This color denotes an Oil +Wine permissible Fasting day, yet still vegan</i>	<i>This color denotes a Fish permissible Fasting Day, but without meat and dairy products</i>	<i>This color denotes a Cheese permissible Fasting Day, but without meat products</i>

Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church  
859 First Street  
Macon, Georgia 31201