



HOLY CROSS

GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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

Sunday, March 23, 2025

Sunday of the Veneration of the Cross

St. Nicon and the 199 Martyrs

Eothinon/Orthros Gospel: Sixth (Luke 24:36-53)

Mode of the Week: Plagal of the Second/Πλ. του Δευτέρου

QR Codes (scan with smart phone for service texts)

Orthros, part 1



Orthros, part 2



Divine Liturgy



Upcoming Schedule

<i>Today, March 23</i>	9:15am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy on the Sunday of the Veneration of the Holy Cross Procession of the Holy Cross at the end of the Liturgy Greek School Independence Day Presentation after the Liturgy Lenten Luncheon in the Parish House after the Presentation Youth Outing—Pickleball at Tattnall Square Park
<i>Monday, March 24</i>	6:00pm Great Vespers for the Feast of the Annunciation (at the Annunciation Cathedral in Atlanta)
<i>Tuesday, March 25</i>	9:30am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy on the Annunciation of the Theotokos Doxology for Greek Independence Day at the end of the Liturgy 12:30pm Orthodox Book Study at Taste and See in Macon
<i>Wednesday, March 26</i>	5:45pm 9 th Hour and Pre-Sanctified Liturgy followed by a Light Lenten Meal and Spiritual Discussion in the Parish House
<i>Thursday, March 27</i>	3:00pm Red Cross Blood Drive in the Parish House (until 7:00pm) 5:30pm Great Compline
<i>Friday, March 28</i>	6:00pm Small Compline and the 4 th Saultations to the Theotokos
<i>Saturday, March 29</i>	9:00am District Oratorical Festival (at Peachtree City) 3:45pm Byzantine Chant Class in the Library 5:00pm Great Vespers
<i>Sunday, March 30</i>	9:15am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy on the Sunday of St. John Climacus 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>Tuesday, April 1</i>	11:00am Orthodoxy Book Study at Taste and See in Macon 5:30pm Great Compline
<i>Wednesday, April 2</i>	5:45pm 9 th Hour and Pre-Sanctified Liturgy followed by a Light Lenten Meal and Spiritual Discussion in the Parish House
<i>Thursday, April 3</i>	9:30am Orthros and the Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete
<i>Friday, April 4</i>	6:00pm Small Compline and the Akathist Hymn
<i>Saturday, April 5</i>	1:45pm Introduction to the Orthodox Church Class in the Library 3:00pm Great Vespers

Upcoming Epistle Readers: (3/30) Helen Troupos, Carter Zoumberis; (4/6) Chad Ridley, Beth Zoumberis
Upcoming PC Member On-Duty: (3/30) John Apostolou; (4/6) Maria Spicer; (4/13) Sarah Drakopoulos
Upcoming Ushers: (3/25) Norm+Eleni A.; (3/26) OPEN; (3/27) Maria S.; (3/28) Jim L.; (3/29) Erick+Cheryl S.
Upcoming Video Operators: (3/25) Cristina L.; (3/26) Natalia S.; (3/28) Cristina L.; (3/30) Joanna P.
Fellowship Hosts: (3/30) Haris Sorovigas; (4/6) Katerina Iakovidis; (4/13) Philoptochos; (4/20) Paschal Luncheon

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 ὄντων σου 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

Σῶσον, Κύριε, τὸν λαόν σου καὶ
εὐλόγησον τὴν κληρονομίαν σου.

Στίχ. Πρὸς σέ, Κύριε, κεκράξομαι, ὁ
Θεός μου, μὴ παρασιωπήσης ἀπ' ἐμοῦ.

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Πρὸς Ἑβραίους Ἐπιστολῆς Παύλου τὸ
ἀνάγνωσμα.

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Ἀδελφοί, ἔχοντες ἀρχιερέα μέγαν
διεληλυθότα τοὺς οὐρανοὺς, Ἰησοῦν τὸν
υἱὸν τοῦ Θεοῦ, κρατῶμεν τῆς
ὁμολογίας. οὐ γὰρ ἔχομεν ἀρχιερέα μὴ
δυνάμενον συμπαθεῖσαι ταῖς ἀσθενείαις
ἡμῶν, πεπειραμένον δὲ κατὰ πάντα καθ'
ὁμοιότητα χωρὶς ἁμαρτίας.
προσερχώμεθα οὖν μετὰ παρρησίας τῷ
θρόνῳ τῆς χάριτος, ἵνα λάβωμεν ἔλεον
καὶ χάριν εὐρωμεν εἰς εὐκαιρον
βοήθειαν. Πᾶς γὰρ ἀρχιερεὺς ἐξ
ἀνθρώπων λαμβανόμενος ὑπὲρ
ἀνθρώπων καθίσταται τὰ πρὸς τὸν
Θεόν, ἵνα προσφέρῃ δῶρά τε καὶ θυσίας
ὑπὲρ ἁμαρτιῶν, μετριοπαθεῖν δυνάμενος
τοῖς ἀγνοοῦσι καὶ πλανωμένοις, ἐπεὶ καὶ
αὐτὸς περικεῖται ἀσθενεῖαν· καὶ διὰ
ταύτην ὀφείλει, καθὼς περὶ τοῦ λαοῦ,
οὕτω καὶ περὶ ἑαυτοῦ προσφέρειν ὑπὲρ
ἁμαρτιῶν. καὶ οὐχ ἑαυτῷ τις λαμβάνει
τὴν τιμὴν, ἀλλὰ καλούμενος ὑπὸ τοῦ
Θεοῦ, καθάπερ καὶ Ἄαρών. οὕτω καὶ ὁ
Χριστὸς οὐχ ἑαυτὸν ἐδόξασε γεννηθῆναι
ἀρχιερέα, ἀλλ' ὁ λαλήσας πρὸς αὐτόν·
υἱός μου εἶ σύ, ἐγὼ σήμερον γεγέννηκά
σε· καθὼς καὶ ἐν ἑτέρῳ λέγει· σύ ἱερεὺς
εἰς τὸν αἰῶνα κατὰ τὴν τάξιν
Μελχισεδέκ.

O Lord, save Your people, and bless
Your inheritance.

Verse: To You, O Lord, I cry; O my
God, may You not pass over me in si-
lence. (Psalm 27)

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The reading is from Paul's Letter to the
Hebrews. (4:14-16, 5:1-6)

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Brethren, since we have a high priest
who has passed through the heavens,
Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast
our confession. For we have not a high
priest who is unable to sympathize with
our weaknesses, but one who in every
respect has been tempted as we are, yet
without sin. Let us then with
confidence draw near to the throne of
grace, that we may receive mercy and
find grace to help in time of need. For
every high priest chosen from among
men is appointed to act on behalf of
men in relation to God, to offer gifts
and sacrifices for sins. He can deal
gently with the ignorant and wayward,
since he himself is beset with weakness.
Because of this he is bound to offer
sacrifice for his own sins as well as for
those of the people. And one does not
take the honor upon himself, but he is
called by God, just as Aaron was. So
also Christ did not exalt himself to be
made a high priest, but was appointed
by him who said to him, "You are my
Son, today I have begotten you"; as he
says also in another place, "You are a
priest forever, according to the order of
Melchizedek."

The Holy Gospel Reading according to St. Mark (8:34-38, 9:1)

Sunday of the Veneration of the Cross

Εἶπεν ὁ Κύριος· Ὅστις θέλει
ὀπίσω μου ἀκολουθεῖν,
ἀπαρνησάσθω ἑαυτὸν καὶ ἀράτω
τὸν σταυρὸν αὐτοῦ, καὶ
ἀκολουθείτω μοι. ὃς γὰρ ἂν θέλῃ
τὴν ψυχὴν αὐτοῦ σῶσαι,
ἀπολέσει αὐτήν· ὃς δ' ἂν
ἀπολέσῃ τὴν ἑαυτοῦ ψυχὴν
ἕνεκεν ἐμοῦ καὶ τοῦ εὐαγγελίου,
οὗτος σώσει αὐτήν. τί γὰρ
ὠφελήσει ἄνθρωπον εἰάν
κερδήσῃ τὸν κόσμον ὅλον, καὶ
ζημιωθῇ τὴν ψυχὴν αὐτοῦ; ἢ τί
δώσει ἄνθρωπος ἀντάλλαγμα
τῆς ψυχῆς αὐτοῦ; ὃς γὰρ εἰάν
ἐπαισχυνηθῇ με καὶ τοὺς ἐμοὺς
λόγους ἐν τῇ γενεᾷ ταύτῃ τῇ
μοιχαλίδι καὶ ἁμαρτωλῷ, καὶ ὁ
υἱὸς τοῦ ἀνθρώπου
ἐπαισχυνηθήσεται αὐτὸν ὅταν
ἔλθῃ ἐν τῇ δόξῃ τοῦ πατρὸς
αὐτοῦ μετὰ τῶν ἀγγέλων τῶν
ἁγίων. Καὶ ἔλεγεν αὐτοῖς· ἀμὴν
λέγω ὑμῖν ὅτι εἰσὶ τινες τῶν ὧδε
ἑστηκότων, οἵτινες οὐ μὴ
γεύσονται θανάτου ἕως ἂν ἴδωσι
τὴν βασιλείαν τοῦ Θεοῦ
ἐληλυθυῖαν ἐν δυνάμει.

The Lord said: "If anyone
wishes to come after me, let
him deny himself and take
up his cross and follow me.
For whoever would save his
life will lose it; and whoever
loses his life for my sake
and the gospel's will save it.
For what does it profit a
man, to gain the whole
world and forfeit his life?
For what can a man give in
return for his life? For
whoever is ashamed of me
and my words in this
adulterous and sinful
generation, of him will the
Son of man also be
ashamed, when he comes in
the glory of his Father with
the holy angels." And he
said to them, "Truly, I say
to you, there are some
standing here who will not
taste death before they see
the kingdom of God come
with power."

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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 March 23, 2025

Ushers on Duty: Cheryl and Erick Schwartzkopf

Video: Harry B. Altar Servers: All Adult/Youth Servers

Epistle Readers: Pete Tsamolias (Greek); James Scarborough (English)

Fellowship Host (Thank You!): Philoptochos/Eleni Adams

PC Member On-Duty: John Apostolou



Today our Holy Orthodox Church commemorates:

- + Third Sunday of Great Lent: Sunday of the Veneration of the Cross (Κυριακή της Σταυροπροσκυνήσεως)

With the help of God, we have almost reached the middle of the course of the Fast, where our strength has been worn down through abstinence, and the full difficulty of the labour set before us becomes apparent. Therefore our holy Mother, the Church of Christ, now brings to our help the all-holy Cross, the joy of the world, the strength of the faithful, the staff of the just, and the hope of sinners, so that by venerating it reverently, we might receive strength and grace to complete the divine struggle of the Fast.

- + The Holy Martyr Nicon (Νίκων) and his 199 Martyred Disciples (+251)

Saint Nicon was from Neapolis (Naples) in Italy. His father was an idolater and his mother a Christian. At first he was a soldier, but later he went to the East, where he was baptized and in time became a bishop. After some years, he returned to the West and came to Sicily, where he and many of his disciples were put to death by beheading because they would not worship the idols.

- + Our Devout Father Dometios (Δομήτιος) in Phrygia (+360)

- + The Holy New Martyr Luke (Λουκάς) in Mytilene (+1802)

St. Luke was born in Adrianoupolis. At six years of age he lost his father, and his mother. As a teenager, he converted to Islam, then repented with deep remorse, and went to the St Anne's Skete on Mount Athos and became an ascetic monk upon his return to Christ. He then felt compelled to return to his world and confess his faith in Christ, going to Mytilene. In Pamphila where the righteous Luke arrived, he came to know the priests at the church of St. Barbara, Frs. Gregory and Parthenios. After fervent supplications and meditation on the martyrdom of St. Theodore, who had been martyred seven years before in Mytilene, St. Luke appeared before Nazer the Aga of Mytilene, and with bravery of soul sought to bear witness as a Christian. He was imprisoned and martyred by hanging on March 23rd, 1802 at the age of 19.

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. Basil the Great (pg. 8 in the Small Book/pg. 37 in the Hymnal):

- 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. (Sung before the Small Entrance and after the Hymn of the Resurrection)

- Weekly Resurrectional Hymn (Αγγελικαί δυνάμεις, Plagal Second Mode):

When the angelic powers appeared at Your tomb, the soldiers guarding it feared and became as dead. And standing by the sepulcher was Mary, who was seeking Your immaculate body. Unassailed by Hades, You divested it of spoils. Then You met the Virgin. You granted life. O Lord, risen from the dead, glory to You! (Greek Text found in hymnal on pg. 118)

- The Kontakion of the Annunciation, (Τη υπερμάχω, Plagal Fourth Mode):

O Champion General, I your City now inscribe to you Triumphant anthems as the tokens of my gratitude, Being rescued from the terrors, O Theotokos. Inasmuch as you have power unassailable, From all kinds of perils free me, so that unto you I may cry aloud: Rejoice, O unwedded Bride. (Greek Text found in hymnal on pg.268)

- Special Hymn of the Day (replacing "Agios O Theos" after the Small Entrance Hymns):

Τὸν Σταυρόν σου προσκονοῦμεν, Δέσποτα, καὶ τὴν ἀγίαν σου ἀνάστασιν δοξάζομεν.

We venerate Your Cross, O Master, and we glorify Your Holy Resurrection.

Guidance, Prayer Requests, and Announcements

This Week's Daily

Scripture Readings and Fasting Guidance:
Sunday, March 23: Sunday of the Veneration of the Cross—Wine+Oil:

Luke 24:36-53; Hebrews 4:14-16, 5:1-6; Mark 8:34-38, 9:1
Monday, March 24—Strict Fast:

Isaiah 14:24-32; Genesis 8:21-9:7; Proverbs 11:19-12:6
Tuesday, March 25: Annunciation—Fish, Wine+Oil:
Luke 1:39-49, 56; Hebrews 2:11-18; Luke 1:24-38

Wednesday, March 26: Synaxis of Archangel Gabriel—Wine+Oil:

Isaiah 26:21-27:9; Genesis 9:18-10:1; Proverbs 12:23-13:9
Thursday, March 27—Strict Fast:

Isaiah 28:14-22; Genesis 10:32-11:9; Proverbs 13:19-14:6
Friday, March 28—Strict Fast:

Isaiah 29:13-23; Genesis 12:1-7; Proverbs 14:15-26
Saturday, March 29—Wine+Oil:

Hebrews 6:9-12; Mark 7:31-37

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, Nicholas, Kevin, Andy, Karen, Vera, Adam, Debbie, Alberto, Sadith, Richelle, Marion, Paul, George, Christina, Chaplene

Prayers for those recently reposed:

Christine (+February 28), Stella (+March 6),
Fr. Jonas (+March 8), John (+March 10)

Prayers for expecting mothers:

Kalie N.

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 Chrysostom, commenting on our Lord's great love and mercy, even from the Cross: "But we are able to see Christ's inexpressible love for man not only from the cross itself but also from the words which He spoke while upon the cross. At the very time when He was nailed and they were mocking Him, deriding Him and spitting upon Him, He said: "Father, forgive them for they do not know what they do" (Luke 23:34)... At the same time that they were saying, "If You are the Son of God save Yourself," He was accomplishing everything necessary to save these same ones who were reproaching Him. ...He did forgive them, if they wished to repent, because if He had not forgiven them this sin, Paul would not have become an apostle; if He had not forgiven them this sin, the three thousand and the five thousand, and the many other thousands, would not have immediately believed."

Upcoming Celebrations This Week

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

Birthdays—Happy Birthday!

March 23: Mary Hornbaker
March 26: Charles Glotzbach, Katerina Iakovidis
March 28: David Needham, Mary Katherine Saratstiotis

Anniversaries—Congratulations!

None in the Records

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

Announcements:

* We welcome Ari Kovaci, our Master Iconographer, and his crew as they continue installing the Holy Icons in our Church. Glory to God for all things! We also thank those who have been assisting them in their stay here in Macon!

* We also welcome Fr. Sava Griscom who is with us today, visiting from Charlotte. Fr. Sava is a tonsured monk and hierodeacon of the Serbian Orthodox Church and currently resides in Charlotte, North Carolina.

* A big thank you to our Greek School teacher, Maria Bronisevsky, our youth that are participating, and all who assisted with the Greek Independence Day presentation taking place after the Divine Liturgy to day. Ζήτω η Ελλάδα, may Greece be long living!

* Please note that the parking space in the parking lot designated as "Reserved for Holy Cross Church" will be reserved on Sunday mornings for whomever is providing the food/drink for the Coffee Fellowship. We hope this helps with the coffee fellowship setup back and forth!

* Youth: TODAY—Pickleball at the Tattnell Square Park taking place after the Coffee Fellowship. Please also save the date for the Lazarus Saturday Mini-Retreat (April 12) and to be in and around the Church for Paschal preparations on Holy Friday (April 18)!

* Our Philoptochos are assisting in a "National Orthodox Baby Shower". Please refer to the communication recently sent out to the parishioners, announcing this Philoptochos event. We are asking for donations of diapers, wipes, baby clothes, socks and shoes. Please place your donations in the pack 'n play set up in the Narthex. Your help, support and generosity is greatly appreciated. This will be taking place through March 25.

* Great Lent, Holy Week & Pascha Preparations - Thank you to everyone who has volunteered. We are still looking for readers & people to decorate the Kouvouklion. If you are interested, please contact Natalia Saratsiotis.

* Spring Fling – April 26! (11 AM – 7 PM): Join us for a day of fun, food, and fellowship! We'll be setting up on Friday (April 25th) at 6 PM, and we need helping hands from GOYA, Young Adults, and Not-So-Young Adults to make this event a success. Mark your calendars and be part of the excitement!

* Red Cross Blood Drive, this coming Thursday, 3pm to 7pm in the Parish House!