



HOLY CROSS

GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

Orthros, part 1



Orthros, part 2



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

Sunday, April 6, 2025

Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt

St. Eftychios of Constantinople

Eothinon/Orthros Gospel: Eighth (John 20:11-18)

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

QR Codes (scan with smart phone for service texts)

Divine Liturgy



Upcoming Schedule

Today, April 6

9:15am Orthros
10:30am Divine Liturgy on the Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt
Sunday School for the Youth after Holy Communion
40-day blessing of Schyler Johnson, and her baby Henry
PC/Usher Meeting in the Church after the Liturgy
Coffee Fellowship in the Parish House after the Divine Liturgy
12:45pm Adult Greek School

Tuesday, April 8

5:30pm Great Compline

Wednesday, April 9

5:45pm 9th Hour and Pre-Sanctified Liturgy followed by a Light Lenten Meal and Spiritual Discussion in the Parish House

Thursday, April 10

11:00am Orthodox Book Study at Taste and See in Macon
6:30pm Choir Practice

Saturday, April 12

9:30am Orthros
10:30am Divine Liturgy on the Saturday of Lazarus
12:00pm Youth Mini-Retreat with Lenten Pancakes, Palm Folding, Service Project
3:00pm Great Vespers for Palm Sunday

Sunday, April 13

9:15am Orthros
10:30am Divine Liturgy on Palm Sunday
Procession of the Palms at the end of the Divine Liturgy
Palm Sunday Luncheon in the Parish House after the Liturgy
12:45pm Bible Study/Youth Greek School
7:00pm Orthros of Holy Monday (Bridegroom Service)

Monday, April 14

7:00pm Orthros of Holy Tuesday (Bridegroom Service)

Tuesday, April 15

7:00pm Orthros of Holy Wednesday (Bridegroom Service)

Wednesday, April 16

9:30am 9th Hour and Pre-Sanctified Liturgy
6:00pm Orthros of Holy Thursday and Holy Unction

Thursday, April 17

9:30am Vesperal Liturgy of St. Basil on Holy Thursday (Institution of the Holy Eucharist)
6:00pm Orthros of Holy Friday (12 Gospels/Passion Service)

Friday, April 18

9:30am Great/Royal Hours of Holy Friday
3:00pm Great Vespers of Holy Saturday (Apokathilosis/taking down Christ from the Cross)
7:00pm Orthros of Holy Saturday (Epitaphios Service)

Upcoming Epistle Readers: (4/13) Kostas Iakovidis, Richard Stewart; (4/16) See Email; (4/20) George S., Cheryl S.
Upcoming PC Member On-Duty: (4/13, 19) Sarah D.; (4/13p, 14, 15) Natalia S.; (4/16, 20) Chad R.; (4/18) Jim L.
Upcoming Ushers: (4/8) Sarah D.; (4/9, 4/12p) Charles G.; (4/12a) Haris S.; (4/13a) Sarah D., Haris S.; (4/13p) Natalia
Upcoming Video Operators: (4/9, 12) Natalia S.; (4/13a+p) Cristina L.; (4/14, 15) Joanna P.; (4/16a) Cristina L.
Fellowship Hosts: (4/13) Philoptochos; (4/20) Paschal Luncheon; (4/27) Despina Passias; (5/4) Eleni Adams

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 Ἑβραίους Ἐπιστολῆς
Παύλου τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα.*

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Ἀδελφοί,
Χριστὸς παραγενόμενος
ἀρχιερεὺς τῶν μελλόντων
ἀγαθῶν διὰ τῆς μείζονος καὶ
τελειότερας σκηνῆς, οὐ
χειροποιήτου, τοῦτ' ἔστιν οὐ
ταύτης τῆς κτίσεως, οὐδὲ δι'
αἵματος τράγων καὶ μόσχων, διὰ
δὲ τοῦ ιδίου αἵματος εἰσηλθεν
ἐφάπαξ εἰς τὰ Ἅγια, αἰωνίαν
λύτρωσιν εὐράμενος. εἰ γὰρ τὸ
αἶμα τάυρων καὶ τράγων καὶ
σποδὸς δαμάλεως ῥαντίζουσα
τοὺς κεκοινωμένους ἀγιάζει πρὸς
τὴν τῆς σαρκὸς καθαρότητα,
πόσω μᾶλλον τὸ αἶμα τοῦ
Χριστοῦ, ὃς διὰ Πνεύματος
αἰωνίου ἑαυτὸν προσήνεγκεν
ἁμωμον τῷ Θεῷ, καθαριεῖ τὴν
συνείδησιν ὑμῶν ἀπὸ νεκρῶν
ἔργων εἰς τὸ λατρεύειν Θεῷ
ζῶντι;

*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
Letter to the Hebrews. (9:11-14)*

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Brethren, when Christ appeared
as a high priest of the good
things to come, then through
the greater and more perfect
tent (not made with hands, that
is, not of this creation) he
entered once for all into the
Holy Place, not with the blood
of goats and calves but with his
own blood, thus securing an
eternal redemption. For if the
sprinkling of defiled persons
with the blood of goats and
bulls and with the ashes of a
heifer sanctifies for the
purification of the flesh, how
much more shall the blood of
Christ, who through the eternal
Spirit offered himself without
blemish to God, purify your
conscience from dead works to
serve the living God.

The Holy Gospel Reading according to St. Mark (10:32-45)

Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, παραλαβὼν ὁ Ἰησοῦς τοὺς
δώδεκα μαθητὰς αὐτοῦ ἤρξατο αὐτοῖς λέγειν
τὰ μέλλοντα αὐτῷ συμβαίνειν, ὅτι ἰδοὺ
ἀναβαίνομεν εἰς Ἱερουσόλυμα καὶ ὁ υἱὸς τοῦ
ἀνθρώπου παραδοθήσεται τοῖς ἀρχιερεῦσι
καὶ γραμματεῦσι, καὶ κατακρινοῦσιν αὐτὸν
θανάτῳ καὶ παραδώσουσιν αὐτὸν τοῖς
ἔθνεσι, καὶ ἐμπαίζουσιν αὐτῷ καὶ
μαστιγώσουσιν αὐτὸν καὶ ἐμπτύσουσιν αὐτῷ
καὶ ἀποκτενοῦσιν αὐτόν, καὶ τῇ τρίτῃ ἡμέρᾳ
ἀναστήσεται. Καὶ προσπορεύονται αὐτῷ
Ἰάκωβος καὶ Ἰωάννης υἱοὶ Ζεβεδαίου
λέγοντες· διδάσκαλε, θέλομεν ἵνα ὁ ἐὰν
αἰτήσωμεν ποιήσης ἡμῖν. ὁ δὲ εἶπεν αὐτοῖς·
τί θέλετε ποιῆσαί με ὑμῖν; οἱ δὲ εἶπον αὐτῷ·
δὸς ἡμῖν ἵνα εἴς ἐκ δεξιῶν σου καὶ εἴς ἐξ
ἐωνύμων σου καθίσωμεν ἐν τῇ δόξῃ σου. ὁ
δὲ Ἰησοῦς εἶπεν αὐτοῖς· οὐκ οἴδατε τί
αἰτεῖσθε. δύνασθε πιεῖν τὸ ποτήριον ὃ ἐγὼ
πίνω, καὶ τὸ βάπτισμα ὃ ἐγὼ βαπτίζομαι
βαπτισθῆναι; οἱ δὲ εἶπον αὐτῷ· δυνάμεθα. ὁ
δὲ Ἰησοῦς εἶπεν αὐτοῖς· τὸ μὲν ποτήριον ὃ
ἐγὼ πίνω πίεσθε, καὶ τὸ βάπτισμα ὃ ἐγὼ
βαπτίζομαι βαπτισθήσεσθε· τὸ δὲ καθίσαι ἐκ
δεξιῶν μου καὶ ἐξ ἐωνύμων οὐκ ἔστιν ἐμὸν
δοῦναι, ἀλλ' οἷς ἡτοίμασται. Καὶ
ἀκούσαντες οἱ δέκα ἤρξαντο ἀγανακτεῖν
περὶ Ἰακώβου καὶ Ἰωάννου. ὁ δὲ Ἰησοῦς
προσκαλεσάμενος αὐτοὺς λέγει αὐτοῖς·
οἴδατε ὅτι οἱ δοκοῦντες ἄρχειν τῶν ἐθνῶν
κατακυριεύουσιν αὐτῶν καὶ οἱ μεγάλοι
αὐτῶν κατεξουσιάζουσιν αὐτῶν· οὐχ οὕτω
δὲ ἔσται ἐν ὑμῖν, ἀλλ' ὃς ἐὰν θέλῃ γενέσθαι
μέγας ἐν ὑμῖν, ἔσται ὑμῶν διάκονος, καὶ ὃς
ἐὰν θέλῃ ὑμῶν γενέσθαι πρῶτος, ἔσται
πάντων δοῦλος· καὶ γὰρ ὁ υἱὸς τοῦ
ἀνθρώπου οὐκ ἦλθε διακονηθῆναι, ἀλλὰ
διακονῆσαι, καὶ δοῦναι τὴν ψυχὴν αὐτοῦ
λύτρον ἀντὶ πολλῶν.

At that time, Jesus took his twelve
disciples, and he began to tell them what
was to happen to him, saying, "Behold, we
are going up to Jerusalem; and the Son of
man will be delivered to the chief priests
and the scribes, and they will condemn
him to death, and deliver him to the
Gentiles; and they will mock him, and spit
upon him, and scourge him, and kill him;
and after three days he will rise." And
James and John, the sons of Zebedee,
came forward to him, and said to him,
"Teacher, we want you to do for us
whatever we ask of you." And he said to
them, "What do you want me to do for
you?" And they said to him, "Grant us to
sit, one at your right hand and one at your
left, in your glory." But Jesus said to them,
"You do not know what you are asking.
Are you able to drink the cup that I drink,
or to be baptized with the baptism with
which I am baptized?" And they said to
him, "We are able." And Jesus said to
them, "The cup that I drink you will drink;
and with the baptism with which I am
baptized, you will be baptized; but to sit at
my right hand or at my left is not mine to
grant, but it is for those for whom it has
been prepared." And when the ten heard it,
they began to be indignant of James and
John. And Jesus called them to him and
said to them, "You know that those who
are supposed to rule over the Gentiles lord
it over them, and their great men exercise
authority over them. But it shall not be so
among you; but whoever would be great
among you must be your servant, and
whoever would be first among you must be
slave of all. For the Son of man also came
not to be served but to serve, and to give
his life as a ransom for many."

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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 April 6, 2025

Ushers on Duty: Erick and Cheryl Schwartzkopf

Video: Gray Y./David N. **Altar Servers:** All Adult/Youth Servers

Epistle Readers: Chad Ridley (Greek); Beth Zoumberis (English)

Fellowship Host (Thank You!): Katerina Iakovidis

PC Member On-Duty: Maria Spicer



Today our Holy Orthodox Church commemorates:

- + Fifth Sunday of Great Lent: Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt (Μαρία της Αιγυπτίας) (+522)

The memory of this Saint is celebrated on April 1, where her life is recorded. Since the end of the holy Forty Days is drawing nigh, it has been appointed for this day also, so that if we think it hard to practice a little abstinence forty days, we might be roused by the heroism of her who fasted in the wilderness forty -seven years; and also that the great loving-kindness of God, and His readiness to receive the repentant, might be demonstrated in very deed.

- + Our Father among the Saints Eftychios (Ευτύχιος), Patriarch of Constantinople (+582)

Born in Theia Kome of Phrygia, Eutychius was the son of illustrious parents, from whom he received a pious upbringing. He studied in Constantinople, and became a monk in a certain monastery of Amasia. In 552 he was chosen Patriarch of New Rome, but was exiled in 565 as a result of the machinations of the Origenists. In 577 he was restored to his throne and reposed on April 6, 582.

- + The Holy 120 Martyrs of Persia (+347)
- + Our Devout Mother Platonis (Πλατωνίς) (+308)
- + The Two Holy Martyrs of Ascalon in Palestine
- + Our Devout Father Gregory (Γρηγόριος) of Sinai (+1347)
- + Our Devout Father Gregory (Γρηγόριος) of the Great Lavra on Mount Athos (+1310)
- + The Holy Monastic Martyr Gennadios (Γεννάδιος) (+1818)
- + The Holy and Glorious Five Neomartyrs: Manuel (Μανουήλ), Theodore (Θεόδωρος), George (Γεώργιος), Michael (Μιχαήλ), and George (Γεώργιος) of Samothrace (+1835)
- + The Holy New Martyr Nicholas (Νικόλαος) the Deacon at Mytilene (+1463)

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):

- *Weekly Resurrectional Hymn (Εξ ύψους κατήλθες, 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 before and after the Small Entrance, Greek Text found in hymnal on pg. 126*)

- *Hymn of St. Mary of Egypt (Εν σοι Μήτηρ, Plagal Fourth Mode):*

In you, O Mother, is preserved undistorted what was made in the image of God; for taking up the cross, you followed Christ and by example taught, that we should overlook the flesh, since it passes away, and instead look after the soul, since it is immortal. And therefore, O devout Mary, your spirit rejoices with the angels.

- *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.

- *The Normal Kontakion, (Προστασία των Χριστιανών, Second Mode):*

O Protection of Christians that never falls, intercession with the Creator that never fails, we sinners beg you, do not ignore the voices of our prayers. O good Lady, we implore you, quickly come unto our aid, when we cry out to you with faith. Hurry to intercession, and hasten to supplication, O Theotokos who protect now and ever those who honor you. (*Greek Text found in hymnal on pg.224*)

Guidance, Prayer Requests, and Announcements

This Week's Daily

Scripture Readings and Fasting Guidance:

Sunday, April 6: Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt—Wiue+Oil:

John 20:11-18; Hebrews 9:11-14; Mark 10:32-45

Monday, April 7—Strict Fast:

Isaiah 48:17-49:4; Genesis 27:1-41; Proverbs 19:16-25

Tuesday, April 8—Strict Fast:

Isaiah 49:6-10; Genesis 31:3-16; Proverbs 21:3-21

Wednesday, April 9—Strict Fast:

Isaiah 58:1-11; Genesis 43:26-31, 45:1-16; Proverbs 21:23-22:4

Thursday, April 10—Strict Fast:

Isaiah 65:8-16; Genesis 46:1-7; Proverbs 23:15-24:5

Friday, April 11—Strict Fast:

Isaiah 66:10-24; Genesis 49:33-50:26; Proverbs 31:8-31

Saturday, April 12: Lazarus Saturday—Wine+Oil:

Hebrews 12:28-29, 13:1-8; John 11:1-45

Prayer Requests:

Metropolitan Alexios, Fr. Symeon (mission priest supported by our parish), Fr. Mike, Panteleimon, 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

Prayers for those recently reposed:

Stella (+March 6), Fr. Jonas (+March 8), Alex (+March 15), John (+March 10), Michael (+April 1), Chaplene (+April 2)

Prayers for expecting mothers:

Julietta L., 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:

By tradition, here is **the prayer of St. Mary of Egypt**, when she stood in front of the door of the Holy Sepulchre and could not enter. Falling to her knees, she prayed this prayer before the icon of the Theotokos. This prayer speaks of the importance of a “broken spirit” using the words of the Psalmist, and the great hope that we have in our Lord Jesus Christ: “O Lady, Mother of God, who gave birth in the flesh to God the Word, I know, O how well I know, that it is no honor or praise to thee when one so impure and depraved as I look up to thy icon, O ever-virgin, who didst keep thy body and soul in purity. Rightly do I inspire hatred and disgust before thy virginal purity. But I have heard that God Who was born of thee became man on purpose to call sinners to repentance. Then help me, for I have no other help. Order the entrance of the church to be opened to me. Allow me to see the venerable Tree on which He Who was born of thee suffered in the flesh and on which He

shed His holy Blood for the redemption of sinners and for me, unworthy as I am. Be my faithful witness before thy son that I will never again defile my body by the impurity of fornication, but as soon as I have seen the Tree of the Cross I will renounce the world and its temptations and will go wherever thou wilt lead me.”

Upcoming Celebrations This Week

Name Days—Chronia Polla, Many Years!

April 10: Jim Lekas

Birthdays—Happy Birthday!

April 6: Aleca Hortman

April 8: John Santon

April 11: Effie Morris

April 12: Christine Nicholas

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:

* **Congratulations** to Schyler Johnson and her son, Henry, on the occasion of their 40-day blessing today. Henry was born to his parents, Schyler and Jace, on February 26.

* **Youth:** Please save the date for the Lazarus Saturday Mini-Retreat (this coming Saturday, April 12 after the Divine Liturgy—we will have Lenten pancakes, prepare palm crosses, have a service project, and learn about Holy Week) and to be in and around the Church for Paschal preparations on Holy Friday (April 18)!

* There will be a meeting for both the **Parish Council and the Ushers** TODAY immediately after the Divine Liturgy. This is a very important meeting as we prepare for Holy Week and Pascha!

* **Great Lent, Holy Week & Pascha Preparations** - Thank you to everyone who has volunteered—please look out for the reminder emails sent out on Friday mornings.

* **Spring Fling – Saturday, 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. Please sign up using this link: <https://volunteersignup.org/YTLFE>. Mark your calendars and be part of the excitement!

* **Holy Week and Pascha postcards** have been mailed out to everyone. Please feel free to take one or two from the narthex and/or Parish House and invite your family and friends for this most sacred time of the year!

* **Pascha Lilies** - If you would like to participate in the 2025 Paschal Lilies Dedication "In Memory of" or "For the Health of", please go to <https://forms.gle/pXyzieAdAiaKu9Ho8> and complete the form. You may also place your payment in the box located in the Narthex (please specify on the memo line Paschal Lilies Dedication). Deadline is Palm Sunday, April 13th.