



HOLY CROSS

GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

Orthros, part 1



Orthros, part 2



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www.holycrossga.org | Facebook: HolyCrossMaconGA

Sunday, June 1, 2025

Sunday of the Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council
St. Justin the Philosopher

Eothinon/Orthros Gospel: Tenth (John 21:1-14)

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

QR Codes (scan with smart phone for service texts)

Divine Liturgy



Upcoming Schedule

Today, June 1

9:15am Orthros
10:30am Divine Liturgy on the Sunday of the Holy Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council
Coffee Fellowship in the Parish House after the Liturgy
12:45pm Adult Greek School
1:00pm Youth Greek Dance

Saturday, June 7

9:30am Orthros
10:30am Divine Liturgy and Memorial Service on the Saturday of the Souls before Pentecost
One Year Memorial Service for Maria Murphy's mother, Despina
3:00pm Pan-Orthodox Vespers and Picnic at St. Philothea in Athens

Sunday, June 8

9:15am Orthros
10:30am Divine Liturgy on the Feast of Holy Pentecost
Honoring of Graduates at the end of the Divine Liturgy
12:00pm Kneeling Vespers of Pentecost
Coffee Fellowship after the Vespers
1:30pm Bible Study

Tuesday, June 10

5:30pm Great Vespers honoring Sts. Bartholomew and Barnabas
6:30pm Introduction to the Orthodox Church Class in the Library/Zoom

Wed. June 11—Sat. June 14

Metropolis Clergy-Laity Conference in Charleston, South Carolina

Sunday, June 15

9:15am Orthros
10:30am Divine Liturgy on the Sunday of All Saints (Father's Day)
Coffee Fellowship in the Parish House after the Liturgy
1:00pm Youth Greek Dance

Monday, June 16

Beginning of the Apostles Fast (through June 28)

Tuesday, June 17

5:15pm Parish Council Meeting

Wednesday, June 18

5:30pm Divine Liturgy honoring St. Jude the Apostle
6:30pm Introduction to the Orthodox Church Class in the Library/Zoom

Saturday, June 21

3:45pm Byzantine Chant Class in the Library
5:00pm Great Vespers

Sunday, June 22

9:15am Orthros
10:30am Divine Liturgy on the 2nd Sunday of Matthew
Coffee Fellowship after the Divine Liturgy
12:30pm Cross Dive Meeting
12:45pm Bible Study

Upcoming Epistle Readers: (6/8) Aleca Hortman, Mike Cantrell; (6/15) George Saratsiotis, Isabelle Saratsiotis
Upcoming PC Member On-Duty: (6/8) Chad Ridley; (6/15) Gray Yates; (6/22) Natalia Saratsiotis; (6/29) Chad R.
Upcoming Ushers: (6/7) Eleni A.; (6/8) Charles G., Jim L.; (6/10) Cristina L.; (6/15) Cheryl S.; (6/18) Cristina L.
Upcoming Video Operators: (6/7) Norm A.; (6/8) Cristina L.; (6/15) David Z.; (6/22) David N./Gray; (6/29) Harry B
Fellowship Hosts: (6/8) Cristina Lekas/Natalia Saratsiotis; (6/15) Ladies of Parish Council; (6/22) Chad Ridley

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

Εὐλογητὸς εἶ Κύριε ὁ Θεὸς τῶν πατέρων ἡμῶν.
Στίχ. Ὅτι δίκαιος εἶ ἐπὶ πᾶσιν, οἷς ἐποίησας
ἡμῖν.

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Πράξεων τῶν Ἀποστόλων τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα.

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Ἐν ταῖς ἡμέραις ἐκείναις, ἔκρινεν ὁ Παῦλος παραπλεῦσαι τὴν Ἔφεσον, ὅπως μὴ γένηται αὐτῷ χρονοτριβῆσαι ἐν τῇ Ἀσίᾳ· ἔσπευδε γάρ, εἰ δυνατὸν ἦν αὐτῷ, τὴν ἡμέραν τῆς πεντηκοστῆς γενέσθαι εἰς Ἱεροσόλυμα. Ἀπὸ δὲ τῆς Μιλήτου πέμψας εἰς Ἔφεσον μετεκαλέσατο τοὺς πρεσβυτέρους τῆς ἐκκλησίας, ὡς δὲ παρεγένοντο πρὸς αὐτόν, εἶπεν αὐτοῖς· προσέχετε οὖν ἑαυτοῖς καὶ παντὶ τῷ ποιμνίῳ ἐν ᾧ ὑμᾶς τὸ Πνεῦμα τὸ Ἅγιον ἔθετο ἐπισκόπους, ποιμαίνειν τὴν ἐκκλησίαν τοῦ Κυρίου καὶ Θεοῦ, ἣν περιποιήσατο διὰ τοῦ ἰδίου αἵματος. ἐγὼ γὰρ οἶδα τοῦτο, ὅτι εἰσελεύσονται μετὰ τὴν ἄφιξίν μου λύκοι βαρεῖς εἰς ὑμᾶς μὴ φειδόμενοι τοῦ ποιμνίου· καὶ ἐξ ὑμῶν αὐτῶν ἀναστήσονται ἄνδρες λαλοῦντες διεστραμμένα τοῦ ἀποσπᾶν τοὺς μαθητὰς ὀπίσω αὐτῶν. διὸ γρηγορεῖτε, μνημονεύοντες ὅτι τριετίαν νύκτα καὶ ἡμέραν οὐκ ἐπαυσάμην μετὰ δακρύων νουθετῶν ἓνα ἕκαστον. καὶ τὰ νῦν παρατίθεται ὑμᾶς, ἀδελφοί, τῷ Θεῷ καὶ τῷ λόγῳ τῆς χάριτος αὐτοῦ τῷ δυναμένῳ ἐποικοδομῆσαι καὶ δοῦναι ὑμῖν κληρονομίαν ἐν τοῖς ἡγιασμένοις πᾶσιν. ἀργυρίου ἢ χρυσίου ἢ ἱματισμοῦ οὐδενὸς ἐπεθύμησα· αὐτοὶ γινώσκετε ὅτι ταῖς χρεΐαις μου καὶ τοῖς οὖσι μετ’ ἐμοῦ ὑπηρέτησαν αἱ χεῖρες αὐται. πάντα ὑπέδειξα ὑμῖν ὅτι οὕτω κοπιῶντας δεῖ ἀντιλαμβάνεσθαι τῶν ἀσθενοῦντων, μνημονεῦειν τε τῶν λόγων τοῦ Κυρίου Ἰησοῦ, ὅτι αὐτὸς εἶπε· μακάριόν ἐστι μᾶλλον διδόναι ἢ λαμβάνειν. καὶ ταῦτα εἰπὼν, θεὶς τὰ γόνατα αὐτοῦ σὺν πᾶσιν αὐτοῖς προσηύξατο.

Blessed are You, O Lord God of our
fathers.
Verse: For You are righteous in all You
did for us.
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The reading is from the Acts of the
Apostles. (20:16-18, 28-36)

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In those days, Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus, so that he might not have to spend time in Asia; for he was hastening to be at Jerusalem, if possible, on the day of Pentecost. And from Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called to him the elders of the church. And when they came to him, he said to them: “Take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of the Lord and God, which he obtained with his own blood. I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves will arise men speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them. Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish every one with tears. And now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified. I coveted no one’s silver or gold or apparel. You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my necessities, and to those who were with me. In all things I have shown you that by so toiling one must help the weak, remembering the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, ‘it is more blessed to give than to receive.’” And when he had spoken thus, he knelt down and prayed with them all.

The Holy Gospel Reading according to St. John (17:1-13)

Sunday of the Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ ἐπάρας ὁ Ἰησοῦς τοὺς ὀφθαλμοὺς αὐτοῦ εἰς τὸν οὐρανὸν καὶ εἶπε· πάτερ, ἐλήλυθεν ἡ ὥρα· δόξασόν σου τὸν υἱόν, ἵνα καὶ ὁ υἱός σου δοξάσῃ σε, καθὼς ἔδωκας αὐτῷ ἐξουσίαν πάσης σαρκός, ἵνα πᾶν ὃ δέδωκας αὐτῷ δώσῃ αὐτοῖς ζωὴν αἰώνιον. αὕτη δέ ἐστιν ἡ αἰώνιος ζωὴ, ἵνα γινώσκωσί σε τὸν μόνον ἀληθινὸν Θεὸν καὶ ὃν ἀπέστειλας Ἰησοῦν Χριστόν. ἐγὼ σε ἐδόξασα ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς, τὸ ἔργον ἐτελείωσα ὃ δέδωκάς μοι ἵνα ποιήσω· καὶ νῦν δόξασόν με σύ, πάτερ, παρὰ σεαυτῷ τῇ δόξῃ ἣ εἶχον πρὸ τοῦ τὸν κόσμον εἶναι παρὰ σοί. Ἐφανέρωσά σου τὸ ὄνομα τοῖς ἀνθρώποις οὓς δέδωκάς μοι ἐκ τοῦ κόσμου. σοὶ ἦσαν καὶ ἐμοὶ αὐτοὺς δέδωκας, καὶ τὸν λόγον σου τετηρήκασι. νῦν ἔγνωκαν ὅτι πάντα ὅσα δέδωκάς μοι παρὰ σοῦ ἐστιν· ὅτι τὰ ῥήματα ἃ δέδωκάς μοι δέδωκα αὐτοῖς, καὶ αὐτοὶ ἔλαβον, καὶ ἔγνωσαν ἀληθῶς ὅτι παρὰ σοῦ ἐξῆλθον, καὶ ἐπίστευσαν ὅτι σύ με ἀπέστειλας. Ἐγὼ περὶ αὐτῶν ἐρωτῶ· οὐ περὶ τοῦ κόσμου ἐρωτῶ, ἀλλὰ περὶ ὧν δέδωκάς μοι, ὅτι σοὶ εἰσι, καὶ τὰ ἐμὰ πάντα σά ἐστι καὶ τὰ σὰ ἐμά, καὶ δεδόξασμαι ἐν αὐτοῖς. καὶ οὐκέτι εἰμὶ ἐν τῷ κόσμῳ, καὶ οὗτοι ἐν τῷ κόσμῳ εἰσί, καὶ ἐγὼ πρὸς σὲ ἔρχομαι. πάτερ ἅγιε, τήρησον αὐτοὺς ἐν τῷ ὀνόματί σου ᾧ δέδωκάς μοι, ἵνα ὧσιν ἐν καθὼς ἡμεῖς. ὅτε ἤμην μετ’ αὐτῶν ἐν τῷ κόσμῳ, ἐγὼ ἐτήρουν αὐτοὺς ἐν τῷ ὀνόματί σου· οὓς δέδωκάς μοι ἐφύλαξα, καὶ οὐδεὶς ἐξ αὐτῶν ἀπώλετο εἰ μὴ ὁ υἱὸς τῆς ἀπωλείας, ἵνα ἡ γραφὴ πληρωθῇ. νῦν δὲ πρὸς σὲ ἔρχομαι, καὶ ταῦτα λαλῶ ἐν τῷ κόσμῳ ἵνα ἔχωσιν τὴν χαρὰν τὴν ἐμὴν πεπληρωμένην ἐν αὐτοῖς.

At that time, Jesus lifted up his eyes to heaven and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him power over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work which you gave me to do; and now, Father, you glorify me in your own presence with the glory which I had with you before the world was made. I have manifested your name to the men whom you gave me out of the world; yours they were, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything that you have given me is from you; for I have given them the words which you gave me, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you did send me. I am praying for them; I am not praying for the world but for those whom you have given me, for they are mine; all mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I am glorified in them. And now I am no more in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one. While I was with them in the world, I kept them in your name; those whom you have given me I have guarded, and none of them is lost but the son of perdition, that the scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to you; and these things I speak in the world, that they may have my joy fulfilled in themselves.”

HOLY CROSS

GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

Rev. Fr. Theodore Ehmer

Προϊστάμενος/Presiding Priest

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Cell: 770.256.0290

Office Days: Tuesday through Friday; call or email Fr. for appointment

Holy Confession: call or email Fr. to schedule

Bulletin for the week of June 1, 2025

Ushers on Duty: Sarah Drakopoulos, Natalia Saratsiotis

Video: Joanna P.

Altar Servers: All Adult/Youth Servers

Epistle Readers: Pete Tsamolias (Greek); Rene Esquivel (English)

Fellowship Host (Thank You!): Sarah Drakopoulos

PC Member On-Duty: Sarah Drakopoulos



Today our Holy Orthodox Church commemorates:

- + Seventh Sunday of Pascha: Commemoration of the 318 Holy Fathers of the First Ecumenical Council

Moved by divine zeal, the first Christian Sovereign, Saint Constantine the Great, the equal to the Apostles, summoned the renowned First Ecumenical Council in Nicaea, a city of Bithynia. It was there that the shepherds and teachers of the Church of Christ gathered from all regions in the year 325. All of them, with one mouth and one voice, declared that the Son and Word of God is one in essence with the Father, true God of true God, and they composed the holy Symbol of Faith up to the seventh article (since the remainder, beginning with "And in the Holy Spirit," was completed by the Second Ecumenical Council). Thus they anathematized the impious Arius of evil belief and those of like mind with him, and cut them off as rotten members from the whole body of the faithful.

- + The Holy Martyr Justin (Ιουστίνος) the Philosopher and those martyred with him: Chariton (Χαρίτων), Charito (Χαρίτω), Evelpistus (Ευέλπιστος), Hierax (Ιέραξ), Peon (Παίων), and Liberianus (Λιβεριανός) (+167)

This Saint, who was from Neapolis of Palestine, was a follower of Plato the philosopher. Born in 103, he came to the Faith of Christ when he was already a mature man, seeking to find God through philosophy and human reasoning. A venerable elder appeared to him and spoke to him about the Prophets who had taught of God not through their own wisdom, but by revelation; and he led him to knowledge of Christ, Who is the fulfillment of what the Prophets taught. Saint Justin soon became a fervent follower of Christ, and an illustrious apologist of the Evangelical teachings. To the end of his life, while preaching Christ in all parts, he never put off his philosopher's garb. In Rome, he gave the Emperor Antoninus Pius an apology wherein he proved the innocence and holiness of the Christian Faith, persuading him to relieve the persecution of Christians. Through the machinations of Crescens, a Cynic philosopher who envied him, Saint Justin was beheaded in Rome in 167 under Antoninus' successor, Marcus Aurelius.

- + The Holy Martyr Firmus (Φίρμος) (+299)

- + The Holy Martyr Thespisius (Θεσπέσιος) (+222)

- + The Holy Hieromartyr and Bishop Pyrrus (Πύρρος) the Virgin

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 (page 8 in the Pew Book):

- Hymn of the Ascension (Ανελήφθης εν δόξῃ, 4th Mode):

You ascended in glory, O Christ our God, after You filled the Disciples with joy, by promising to send them the Holy Spirit, and You blessed them and established their faith, that You are the Son of God, the Redeemer of the world. (Sung before the Small Entrance and after the Hymn of the Resurrection, Greek Text found in hymnal on pg. 168)

- Weekly Resurrectional Hymn (Αγγελικαί δυνάμεις, Plagal 2nd 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! (Sung after the Small Entrance, Greek Text found in hymnal on pg. 118)

- Hymn of the Fathers (Υπερδεδοξασμένος ει, Plagal 4th Mode):

Supremely blessed are You, O Christ our God. You established the holy Fathers upon the earth as beacons, and through them You have guided us all to the true Faith, O greatly merciful One, glory be to You. (Greek text found in hymnal on pg. 180)

- Hymn of the Holy Cross (Σώσον Κύριε, 1st 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 in Greek and English)

- Kontakion of the Ascension (Την υπερ ημών, Plagal 2nd Mode):

When You had fulfilled the dispensation for our sake, and united things on earth with the things in heaven, You were taken up thither in glory, O Christ our God, going not away from any place, but continuing inseparable, and to them that love You crying out: * "I am with you, and there is, therefore, none against you." (Greek text found in hymnal on pg. 278)

Guidance, Prayer Requests, and Announcements

This Week's Daily

Scripture Readings and Fasting Guidance:
Sunday, June 1: Fathers of 1st Ec. Council—No Fasting:

John 21:1-14; Acts 20:16-18, 28-36; John 17:1-13

Monday, June 2—No Fasting:

Acts 21:8-14; John 14:27-15:7

Tuesday, June 3—No Fasting:

Acts 21:26-32; John 16:2-13

Wednesday, June 4—Wine+Oil:

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

Thursday, June 5—No Fasting:

Acts 25:13-19; John 16:23-33

Friday, June 6—Wine+Oil:

Acts 27:1-44, 28:1; John 17:18-26

Saturday, June 7: Saturday of the Souls—No Fasting:

I Thessalonians 4:13-17; John 21:14-25

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, Karl, Mitch, Rinne, Michael, Christian, Paul, Lucas, Leo, Nicholas, Kevin, Andy, Karen, Vera, Adam, Debbie, Alberto, Sadith, Richelle, Marion, Paul, George, Christina, Eric, Kristen

Prayers for those recently reposed:

Franklin (+May 21), Virginia (+May 24)

Prayers for expecting mothers:

Betty, Heather, Julieta, Kalie

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 Emma, Nate, Sebastian, Sophia, Susan, Tammy and pray for those who are seeking Christ and His Church!

Weekly Wisdom of the Fathers:

From the **Synekdemos**, the daily prayer book for Orthodox Christians, the prayer for the reposed that we should pray every Saturday for those who have gone before us: Remember, Lord, our fathers and brethren who have fallen asleep in the hope of the resurrection to eternal life, and all those who ended this life in piety and faith. Pardon their every transgression, committed voluntarily or involuntarily, in word, or deed, or thought. Place them in a place of light, a place of refreshment, a place of peace from which every ailment, sorrow, and lameness are banished, and from which the light of your countenance shines and gladdens all your saints from all ages. Bestow on them and on us your kingdom. Grant to them the participation of your ineffable and ever-lasting blessings, and the enjoyment of your endless and blissful life. For you are the life, the resurrection, and the peace of your departed servants, Christ our God, and to you we give glory, together with your all holy, good, and life giving Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen.

Upcoming Celebrations This Week

Name Days—Chronia Polla, Many Years!

June 1: Justin Lane

June 4: Mary Gordy

Birthdays—Happy Birthday!

June 1: Alexandra Stefanis

June 2: Leo Economopoulos

June 5: Isabelle Saratsiotis

June 7: Chloe Morris, Haris Sorovigas

Anniversaries—Congratulations!

June 1: Erick and Cheryl Schwartzkopf

June 6: Danaï and Rene Esquivel

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

Announcements:

* As a reminder, we **do not kneel or make prostrations** during this Paschal season (until the Kneeling Vespers at Pentecost) due to the resurrectional and joyful theme of this liturgical season! We also do not pray the prayer "O Heavenly King/Βασιλεῦ οὐράνιε" in Church or in our private prayers during this time until the Feast of Pentecost.

* **Youth/Young Adults:** On June 8 (Pentecost) we'll be honoring our five high school and post-secondary graduates!

* The **Philoptochos Elections** will take place this past week. The new board is as follows: Sarah Drakopoulos (President), Helen Vardy (First Vice President), Pamela Poulos (Second Vice President), Cheryl Schwartzkopf (Recording Secretary), Antigone Michalakis (Corresponding Secretary), Maria Bronisevsky (Treasurer), Denna Bradford (At Large), Cleo Bennette (Advisor). May God bless their ministry.

* Today is the **last Sunday for Greek School** as it takes hiatus for the summer. We thank Maria Bronisevsky for all of her efforts with the Greek School for the adults and youth!

* The next **Introduction to the Orthodox Church** class will take place on Tuesday, June 10 at 6:30pm in the Church Library/on Zoom. The topic will be "The Divine Liturgy." If you would like a recording of the previous session or be included on the email list for the class, please contact Fr. Theodore.

* All Atlanta-area Orthodox parishes are invited to St. Philothea Greek Orthodox Church in Athens, Georgia for a **Pan-Orthodox Vespers and Pentecost Picnic** this Saturday, June 7 at 3:00pm.

* **Fr. Theodore will be out of town** on vacation with his family this coming week from Sunday evening through Friday evening. In case of an immediate pastoral need (such as a hospital visit), please contact Fr. Theophan from St. Innocent Orthodox Church at 478-538-8161. Please also call Fr. Theodore on his cell at 770-256-0290 to let him know of your pastoral situation.

* This coming Saturday is the **Saturday of the Souls** (Ψυχούαῶβατο) before Pentecost. There will be Orthros and Liturgy with a Memorial Service. If your list of names is not already in the altar, please fill out a sheet in the narthex.