



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, June 15, 2025

Sunday of All Saints

The Holy Prophet Amos

Eothinon/Orthros Gospel: First (Matthew 28:16-20)

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, 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 in the Parish House after the Liturgy
12:45pm Bible Study

Tuesday, June 24

9:30am Orthros
10:30am Divine Liturgy on the Feast of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist

Wednesday, June 25

5:30pm Vespers
6:30pm Introduction to the Orthodox Church Class in the Library/Zoom

Saturday, June 28

4:30pm Wedding of Lindsey Holland and Gray Yates

Sunday, June 29

9:15am Orthros
10:30am Divine Liturgy on the Feast Day of Saints Peter and Paul
Coffee Fellowship in the Parish House after the Liturgy
12:30pm Cross Dive Meeting
1:00pm Youth Greek Dance

Wednesday, July 2

5:30pm Vespers
6:30pm Introduction to the Orthodox Church Class in the Library/Zoom

Friday, July 4

Independence Day—Office Closed

Sunday, July 6

9:15am Orthros
10:30am Divine Liturgy on the 4th Sunday of Matthew
Doxology for Independence Day at the end of the Liturgy
Coffee Fellowship in the Parish House after the Liturgy
12:45pm Bible Study

Wednesday, July 9

5:30pm Vespers
6:15pm Byzantine Chant Class

Upcoming Epistle Readers: (6/22) Pete Tsamolias, Charles Glotzbach; (6/29) Chad Ridley, Carter Zoumberis
Upcoming PC Member On-Duty: (6/22) Natalia Saratsiotis; (6/29) Chad Ridley; (7/6) John Apostolou; (7/13) Maria S.
Upcoming Ushers: (6/18) Cristina L.; (6/21) Charles G.; (6/22) Sarah D., Natalia S.; (6/24) Sarah D.; (6/25) OPEN
Upcoming Video Operators: (6/22) David N./Gray Y.; (6/29) Harry B.; (7/6) Joanna P.; (7/13) David Z.; (7/20) Natalia
Fellowship Hosts: (6/22) Chad Ridley; (6/29) Mandi Saratsiotis; (7/6) Marcella Chiorescu; (7/13) Cheryl Schwartzkopf

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

Θαυμαστός ὁ Θεὸς ἐν τοῖς ἁγίοις αὐτοῦ.
Στίχ. Ἐν ἐκκλησίαις εὐλογεῖτε τὸν Θεόν.

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Πρὸς Ἑβραίους Ἐπιστολῆς Παύλου τὸ
ἀνάγνωσμα.

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Ἀδελφοί, οἱ ἅγιοι πάντες διὰ πίστεως κατηγωνίσαντο βασιλείας, εἰργάσαντο δικαιοσύνην, ἐπέτυχον ἐπαγγελιῶν, ἔφραξαν στόματα λεόντων, ἔσβεσαν δύναμιν πυρός, ἔφυγον στόματα μαχαίρας, ἐνεδυναμώθησαν ἀπὸ ἀσθενείας, ἐγενήθησαν ἰσχυροὶ ἐν πολέμῳ, παρεμβολὰς ἔκλιναν ἀλλοτρίων· ἔλαβον γυναῖκες ἐξ ἀναστάσεως τοὺς νεκροὺς αὐτῶν· ἄλλοι δὲ ἐτυμπανίσθησαν, οὐ προσδεξάμενοι τὴν ἀπολύτρωσιν, ἵνα κρείττονος ἀναστάσεως τύχωσιν· ἕτεροι δὲ ἐμπαιγμῶν καὶ μαστίγων πείραν ἔλαβον, ἐτι δὲ δεσμῶν καὶ φυλακῆς· ἐλιθάσθησαν, ἐπρίσθησαν, ἐπειράσθησαν, ἐν φόνῳ μαχαίρας ἀπέθανον, περιῆλθον ἐν μηλωταῖς, ἐν αἰγείοις δέρμασιν, ὑστερούμενοι, θλιβόμενοι, κακουχούμενοι, ὧν οὐκ ἦν ἄξιος ὁ κόσμος, ἐν ἐρημίαις πλανώμενοι καὶ ὄρεσι καὶ σπηλαίοις καὶ ταῖς ὁπαῖς τῆς γῆς. Καὶ οὗτοι πάντες μαρτυρηθέντες διὰ τῆς πίστεως οὐκ ἔκομίσαντο τὴν ἐπαγγελίαν, τοῦ Θεοῦ περὶ ἡμῶν κρείττον· τι προβλεψαμένου, ἵνα μὴ χωρὶς ἡμῶν τελειωθῶσι. Τοιγαροῦν καὶ ἡμεῖς, τοσοῦτον ἔχοντες περικείμενον ἡμῖν νέφος μαρτύρων, ὄγκον ἀποθέμενοι πάντα καὶ τὴν εὐπερίστατον ἁμαρτίαν, δι' ὑπομονῆς τρέχουμεν τὸν προκείμενον ἡμῖν ἀγῶνα, ἀφορῶντες εἰς τὸν τῆς πίστεως ἀρχηγὸν καὶ τελειωτὴν Ἰησοῦν.

God is wondrous in His saints.
Verse: Bless God in the churches.

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The reading is from Paul's Letter to the
Hebrews. (11:33-40, 12:1-2)

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Brethren, all the saints through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were tempted, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, ill-treated — of whom the world was not worthy — wandering over deserts and mountains and in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect. Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin that easily distracts, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of faith.

The Holy Gospel Reading according to St. Matthew (10:32-33, 37-38, 19:27-30)

Sunday of All Saints

Εἶπεν ὁ Κύριος τοῖς ἑαυτοῦ μαθηταῖς· Πᾶς ὅστις ὁμολογήσει ἐν ἐμοὶ ἔμπροσθεν τῶν ἀνθρώπων, ὁμολογήσω καὶ γὰρ ἐν αὐτῷ ἔμπροσθεν τοῦ πατρὸς μου τοῦ ἐν οὐρανοῖς. ὅστις δ' ἂν ἀρνήσηταί με ἔμπροσθεν τῶν ἀνθρώπων, ἀρνήσομαι αὐτὸν καὶ γὰρ ἔμπροσθεν τοῦ πατρὸς μου τοῦ ἐν οὐρανοῖς. Ὁ φιλῶν πατέρα ἢ μητέρα ὑπὲρ ἐμὲ οὐκ ἔστι μου ἄξιος· καὶ ὁ φιλῶν υἱὸν ἢ θυγατέρα ὑπὲρ ἐμὲ οὐκ ἔστι μου ἄξιος· καὶ ὃς οὐ λαμβάνει τὸν σταυρὸν αὐτοῦ καὶ ἀκολουθεῖ ὀπίσω μου, οὐκ ἔστι μου ἄξιος. Ἀποκριθεὶς δὲ ὁ Πέτρος εἶπεν αὐτῷ· ἰδοὺ ἡμεῖς ἀφήκαμεν πάντα καὶ ἠκολουθήσαμεν σοι· τί ἄρα ἔσται ἡμῖν; ὁ δὲ Ἰησοῦς εἶπεν αὐτοῖς· ἀμὴν λέγω ὑμῖν ὅτι ὑμεῖς οἱ ἀκολουθήσαντές μοι, ἐν τῇ παλιγγενεσίᾳ, ὅταν καθίσῃ ὁ υἱὸς τοῦ ἀνθρώπου ἐπὶ θρόνου δόξης αὐτοῦ, καθίσεσθε καὶ ὑμεῖς ἐπὶ δώδεκα θρόνους κρίνοντες τὰς δώδεκα φυλὰς τοῦ Ἰσραὴλ. καὶ πᾶς ὃς ἀφῆκεν οἰκίας ἢ ἀδελφοὺς ἢ ἀδελφὰς ἢ πατέρα ἢ μητέρα ἢ γυναῖκα ἢ τέκνα ἢ ἀγροὺς ἕνεκεν τοῦ ὀνόματός μου, ἑκατονταπλασίονα λήψεται καὶ ζωὴν αἰώνιον κληρονομήσει. Πολλοὶ δὲ ἔσονται πρῶτοι ἔσχατοι καὶ ἔσχατοι πρῶτοι.

The Lord said to his disciples, “Every one who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven; but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny him before my Father who is in heaven. He who loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and he who loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and he who does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me.” Peter said in reply, “Lo, we have left everything and followed you. What then shall we have?” Jesus said to them, “Truly, I say to you, in the new world, when the Son of man shall sit on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And every one who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or lands, for my name’s sake, will receive a hundredfold, and inherit eternal life. But many that are first will be last, and the last first.”

HOLY CROSS

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 June 15, 2025

Ushers on Duty: Cheryl Schwartzkopf

Video: David Z.

Altar Servers: All Adult/Youth Servers

Epistle Readers: George Saratsiotis (Greek); Isabelle Saratsiotis (Eng.)

Fellowship Host (Thank You!): Ladies of the Parish Council

PC Member On-Duty: Gray Yates



Today our Holy Orthodox Church commemorates:

+ Sunday of All Saints (Κυριακή των Αγίων Πάντων)

Honouring the friends of God with much reverence, the Prophet-King David says, "But to me, exceedingly honourable are Thy friends, O Lord" (Ps. 138:16). And the divine Apostle, recounting the achievements of the Saints, and setting forth their memorial as an example that we might turn away from earthly things and from sin, and emulate their patience and courage in the struggles for virtue, says, "Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every burden, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us" (Heb. 12:1). This commemoration began as the Sunday (Synaxis) of All Martyrs; to them were added all the ranks of Saints who bore witness (the meaning of "Martyr" in Greek) to Christ in manifold ways, even if occasion did not require the shedding of their blood. Therefore, guided by the teaching of the Divine Scriptures and Apostolic Tradition, we the pious honour all the Saints, the friends of God, for they are keepers of God's commandments, shining examples of virtue, and benefactors of mankind. Of course, we honour the known Saints especially on their own day of the year, as is evident in the Menologion. But since many Saints are unknown, and their number has increased with time, and will continue to increase until the end of time, the Church has appointed that once a year a common commemoration be made of all the Saints. This is the feast that we celebrate today. It is the harvest of the coming of the Holy Spirit into the world; it is the "much fruit" brought forth by that "Grain of wheat that fell into the earth and died" (John 12:24); it is the glorification of the Saints as "the foundation of the Church, the perfection of the Gospel, they who fulfilled in deed the sayings of the Saviour."

+ The Holy Prophet Amos (Αμώς) (8th century BC)

+ The Holy Martyr Doulas (Δουλάς) of Cilicia (+305)

+ The Holy Martyr Nerses (Νερσής)

+ Our Devout Fathers Jerome (Ιερώνυμος) of Stridonium (+420) and Augustine (Αυγουστίνος), Bishop of Hippo (+430)

+ Commemoration of the appearance of our Most-Holy Lady the Theotokos in Maranakiös

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):

- *Weekly Resurrectional Hymn (Εξ ύψους κατήλθες, Plagal 4th 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 in hymnal on pg. 126)*

- *Hymn of All Saints (Των εν όλω τω κόσμω, 4th Mode):*

Your Church is arrayed in the holy blood of Your Martyrs who witnessed throughout the world, as though in purple and fine linen. Through them she cries to You, Christ our God, "Send down to Your people Your tender love, grant peace from above to Your commonwealth, and to our souls Your great mercy." *(Greek text in hymnal on pg. 174)*

- *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)*

- *The Kontakion of All Saints (Ως απαρχάς της φύσεως, Plagal 4th Mode):*

O Planter of creation, Lord, to You does the entire world bring as an offering the God-bearing martyr Saints, as being nature's first fruits. At their earnest entreaties, keep Your Church in a state of profoundest peace, through the Theotokos, O Lord abundantly merciful. *(Greek text in hymnal on pg. 282)*

- *Communion Hymn (Το πνεύμα σου):*

Rejoice greatly in the Lord, O righteous ones; praise is fitting for the upright. Alleluia. (Psalm 32)

Guidance, Prayer Requests, and Announcements

This Week's Daily

Scripture Readings and Fasting Guidance:

Sunday, June 15: All Saints—No Fasting:

Matthew 28:16-20; Hebrews 11:33-40, 12:1-2; Matthew 10:32-33, 37-38, 19:27-30

Monday, June 16—Fish, Wine, Oil:

Romans 2:28-29, 3:1-18; Matthew 6:31-34, 7:9-11

Tuesday, June 17—Fish, Wine, Oil:

Romans 4:4-12; Matthew 7:15-21

Wednesday, June 18—Strict Fast:

Romans 4:13-25; Matthew 7:21-23

Thursday, June 19: St. Jude —Fish, Wine, Oil:

Jude 1:1-25; John 14:21-24

Friday, June 20—Strict Fast:

Romans 5:17-21, 6:1-2; Matthew 9:14-17

Saturday, June 21—Fish, Wine, Oil:

Romans 3:19-24; Matthew 7:1-8

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

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, Benjamin George Davis, Kyle Glotzbach, Robert Ice, Aleksander Zajac

Prayers for our Catechumens and Inquirers into the Orthodox Church:

Alexander, Bobbie, Dakota, Hannah, Jessica, Mary Emma, Nate, Sophia, Susan, Tammy and pray for those who are seeking Christ and His Church!

Weekly Wisdom of the Fathers:

St. Symeon the New Theologian, cheering us on to holiness, like our brothers and sisters who have gone before us: "Those of whom I speak and whom I call heretics are those who say that there is no one in our times and in our midst who is able to keep the Gospel commandments and become like the holy Fathers...Now those who say that this is impossible have not fallen into one particular heresy, but rather into all of them, if I may say so, since this one surpasses and covers them all in impiety and abundance of blasphemy. One who makes this claim subverts all the divine Scriptures. I think (that by making this claim) such a person states that the Holy Gospel is now recited in vain, that the writings of Basil the Great and of our other priests and holy Fathers are irrelevant or have even been frivolously written. If, then, it is impossible for us to carry out in action and observe without fail all the things that God says, and all that the saints, after first practicing them have left in

writing for our instruction, why did they at that time trouble to write them down and why do we read them in Church? Those who make these claims shut up the heaven that Christ opened for us, and cut off the way to it that he inaugurated for us. God who is above all, stands, as it were, at the gate of heaven and peers out of it so that the faithful see him, and through his Holy Gospel cries out and says, 'Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest' (Mt. 11:28). But these opponents of God or, rather, antichrists say, 'It is impossible, impossible.'"

Upcoming Celebrations This Week

Name Days—Chronia Polla, Many Years!

June 19: Danny "Jude" McBride

Birthdays—Happy Birthday!

June 16: Henry Goss

June 17: Chrissy Holland

June 21: Ethan Pellegrino

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:

* Wishing all of our fathers, grandfathers, godfathers, those who serve in a fatherly role a **Happy Father's Day** today! God bless you all!

* Tomorrow, the day after the Sunday of All Saints, we begin the **Apostles Fast**. While this is not as intense of a fasting period as other periods such as Great Lent or the Dormition Fast, it is still a very ancient and meaningful fast. Let us imitate our Lord's Holy Apostles who went out to the ends of the earth and strengthened themselves in soul and body with fasting, almsgiving, and prayer! This fast concludes with the Feast of Saints Peter and Paul on June 29.

* The next **Introduction to the Orthodox Church** class will take place this Wednesday, June 18 at 6:30pm (after the Divine Liturgy) in the Church Library/on Zoom. The topic will be "The Orthodox Christian perspective of Salvation" If you would like a recording of the previous session or be included on the email list for the class, please contact Fr. Theodore.

* The **Orthodox Book Study** has completed our reading of our previous book. The next book study will begin on Thursday, July 10.

* There will be a meeting for this year's **Cross Dive** that will take place after the Divine Liturgy/Coffee Fellowship on Sunday, June 29. If you have previously served on this committee or would like to serve on this committee, we would love for you to attend! Also, mark your calendars for the 4th Annual Pan-Orthodox Cross Dive which is on September 13, 2025.

* For those traveling this summer, we pray you have a safe and relaxing vacation. As a friendly reminder, we offer **LiveStreaming** to those who are unable to attend services on our Facebook page.