



# HOLY CROSS

## GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

Orthros, part 1



Orthros, part 2



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[www.holycrossga.org](http://www.holycrossga.org) | Facebook: HolyCrossMaconGA

### Sunday, June 22, 2025

Second Sunday of Matthew

St. Eusebius, Bishop of Samosata

Eothinon/Orthros Gospel: Second (Mark 16:1-8)

Mode of the Week: First / Πρώτος

QR Codes (scan with smart phone for service texts)

Divine Liturgy



### Upcoming Schedule

*Today, June 22*

9:15am Orthros  
10:30am Divine Liturgy on the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> 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*

9:30am Prosfora Baking Class in the Parish House  
5:30pm Vespers  
6:30pm Introduction to the Orthodox Church Class in the Library/Zoom

*Thursday, July 10*

11:00am Orthodox Book Study at Taste and See in Macon

*Saturday, July 12*

11:00am Holy Baptism of John William Brock  
Late afternoon/early evening: Summer Church Picnic (more details to come)

*Sunday, July 13*

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

*Tuesday, July 15*

5:15pm Parish Council Meeting

**Upcoming Epistle Readers:** (6/29) Chad Ridley, Cheryl Schwartzkopf; (7/6) George Saratsiotis, Beth Zoumberis  
**Upcoming PC Member On-Duty:** (6/29) Natalia Saratsiotis; (7/6) John Apostolou; (7/13) Maria Spicer; (7/20) Sarah  
**Upcoming Ushers:** (6/24) Sarah D.; (6/25) OPEN; (6/29) Erick+Cheryl S.; (7/2); Natalia S.; (7/6) Erick+Cheryl S.  
**Upcoming Video Operators:** (6/29) Natalia S.; (7/6) Joanna P.; (7/13) David Z.; (7/20) Natalia S.; (7/25) OPEN  
**Fellowship Hosts:** (6/29) Mandi Saratsiotis; (7/6) Marcella Chiorescu; (7/13) Cheryl Schwartzkopf; (7/20) OPEN

### 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

*Γένοιτο, Κύριε, τὸ ἔλεός σου ἐφ’  
ἡμᾶς, καθάπερ ἠλπίσαμεν ἐπὶ σέ.  
Στίχ. Ἀγαλλιᾶσθε, δίκαιοι, ἐν Κυρίῳ·  
τοῖς εὐθέσι πρέπει αἴνεσις.*

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*Πρὸς Ρωμαίους Ἐπιστολῆς  
Παύλου τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα.*

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Ἀδελφοί, δόξα δὲ καὶ τιμὴ καὶ εἰρήνη παντὶ τῷ ἐργαζομένῳ τὸ ἀγαθόν, Ἰουδαίῳ τε πρῶτον καὶ Ἑλληνι· οὐ γάρ ἐστι προσωποληψία παρὰ τῷ Θεῷ. ὅσοι γὰρ ἀνόμως ἡμαρτον, ἀνόμως καὶ ἀπολοῦνται· καὶ ὅσοι ἐν νόμῳ ἡμαρτον, διὰ νόμου κριθήσονται. οὐ γὰρ οἱ ἀκροαταὶ τοῦ νόμου δίκαιοι παρὰ τῷ Θεῷ, ἀλλ’ οἱ ποιηταὶ τοῦ νόμου δικαιωθήσονται. ὅταν γὰρ ἔθνη τὰ μὴ νόμον ἔχοντα φύσει τὰ τοῦ νόμου ποιῇ, οὗτοι νόμον μὴ ἔχοντες ἑαυτοῖς εἰσι νόμος, οἵτινες ἐνδείκνυνται τὸ ἔργον τοῦ νόμου γραπτὸν ἐν ταῖς καρδίαις αὐτῶν, συμμαρτυροῦσης αὐτῶν τῆς συνειδήσεως καὶ μεταξὺ ἀλλήλων τῶν λογισμῶν κατηγορούντων ἢ καὶ ἀπολογουμένων — ἐν ἡμέρᾳ ὅτε κρινεῖ ὁ Θεὸς τὰ κρυπτὰ τῶν ἀνθρώπων κατὰ τὸ εὐαγγέλιόν μου διὰ Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ.

*Let Your mercy, O Lord, be upon  
us, as we hope in You.*

*Verse: Rejoice greatly in the Lord,  
O righteous ones; praise is fitting  
for the upright.*

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*The reading is from Paul’s Letter  
to the Romans. (2:10-16)*

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Brethren, glory and honor and peace for every one who does good, the Jew first and also the Greek. For God shows no partiality. All who have sinned without the law will also perish without the law, and all who have sinned under the law will be judged by the law. For it is not the hearers of the law who are righteous before God, but the doers of the law who will be justified. When Gentiles who have not the law do by nature what the law requires, they are a law to themselves, even though they do not have the law. They show that what the law requires is written on their hearts, while their conscience also bears witness and their conflicting thoughts accuse or perhaps excuse them on that day when, according to my gospel, God judges the secrets of men by Christ Jesus.

## The Holy Gospel Reading according to St. Matthew (4:18-23)

Second Sunday of Matthew

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, περιπατῶν παρὰ τὴν θάλασσαν τῆς Γαλιλαίας εἶδε δύο ἀδελφούς, Σίμονα τὸν λεγόμενον Πέτρον καὶ Ἀνδρέαν τὸν ἀδελφὸν αὐτοῦ, βάλλοντας ἀμφίβληστρον εἰς τὴν θάλασσαν· ἦσαν γὰρ ἀλιεῖς· καὶ λέγει αὐτοῖς· δεῦτε ὀπίσω μου καὶ ποιήσω ὑμᾶς ἀλιεῖς ἀνθρώπων. οἱ δὲ εὐθέως ἀφέντες τὰ δίκτυα ἠκολούθησαν αὐτῷ. Καὶ προβὰς ἐκεῖθεν εἶδεν ἄλλους δύο ἀδελφούς, Ἰάκωβον τὸν τοῦ Ζεβεδαίου καὶ Ἰωάννην τὸν ἀδελφὸν αὐτοῦ, ἐν τῷ πλοίῳ μετὰ Ζεβεδαίου τοῦ πατρὸς αὐτῶν καταρτίζοντας τὰ δίκτυα αὐτῶν, καὶ ἐκάλεσεν αὐτούς. οἱ δὲ εὐθέως ἀφέντες τὸ πλοῖον καὶ τὸν πατέρα αὐτῶν ἠκολούθησαν αὐτῷ. Καὶ περιῆγεν ὅλην τὴν Γαλιλαίαν ὁ Ἰησοῦς διδάσκων ἐν ταῖς συναγωγαῖς αὐτῶν καὶ κηρύσσων τὸ εὐαγγέλιον τῆς βασιλείας καὶ θεραπεύων πᾶσαν νόσον καὶ πᾶσαν μαλακίαν ἐν τῷ λαῷ.

At that time, as Jesus walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon who is called Peter and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.” Immediately they left their nets and followed him. And going on from there he saw two other brothers, James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left their boat and their father, and followed him. And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and preaching the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every infirmity among the people.

# HOLY CROSS

## GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

**Rev. Fr. Theodore Ehmer**

**Προϊστάμενος/Presiding Priest**

**E-mail:** frtheodore@holycrossga.org

**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 22, 2025**

**Ushers on Duty:** Sarah Drakopoulos, Charles Glotzbach

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

**Epistle Readers:** Pete Tsamolias (Greek); Carter Zoumberis (English)

**Fellowship Host (Thank You!):** Chad Ridley

**PC Member On-Duty:** Chad Ridley



### **Today our Holy Orthodox Church commemorates:**

- + The Holy Hieromartyr Eusebius (Ευσέβιος), Bishop of Samosata (+380)

*After the expulsion of Eudoxius from the see of Antioch, the Arians of Antioch, believing that Meletius of Armenia would uphold their doctrines, petitioned the Emperor Constantius to appoint Meletius Bishop of Antioch, while signing a document jointly with the Orthodox of Antioch, unanimously agreeing to Meletius' appointment ; this document was entrusted to Eusebius, Bishop of Samosata. Meletius, however, after his Orthodoxy became apparent, was banished, and the Arians persuaded Constantius to demand the document back from Eusebius, as it convicted their perfidy. Imperial officers were sent; Eusebius refused to surrender the document without the consent of all who had signed it; the officers returned to the Emperor, who furiously sent them back to Eusebius with threats. But so great a zealot for the true Faith, so staunch an enemy of the Arians, so fearless a man of valor was Saint Eusebius, that when Constantius' officers arrived, threatening to cut off his right hand unless he surrendered the document, Eusebius held out both hands. When Constantius learned of it, he was struck with astonishment and admiration. This took place in 361, the last year of the reign of Constantius; he was succeeded by Julian the Apostate, who was slain in Persia in 363; Jovian succeeded Julian, and Valentinian succeeded Jovian in 364, making his brother Valens Emperor of the East. Valens, who supported the Arians, exiled Eusebius to Thrace in 374. The bearer of the edict of Eusebius' banishment arrived in the evening; Eusebius bade him keep silence, or else the people, learning why he had come, would drown him: and Eusebius, though an old man, left his house alone on foot by night. After Valens was slain at Adrianople in 378, the holy Eusebius returned from exile under the Emperor Gratian, and he ordained for the churches of Syria men known for their virtue and Orthodoxy. About the year 380, as he was entering a certain village to enthronize its bishop, whom he had consecrated, an Arian woman threw a clay tile from the roof, and it crushed his head; as he was dying, he bound the bystanders with oaths that they not take the least vengeance. Saint Gregory the Theologian addressed several letters to him; he had such reverence for him, that in one letter to him, commending himself to Saint Eusebius' prayers, he said, "That such a man should deign to be my patron also in his prayers will gain for me, I am persuaded, as much strength as I should have gained through one of the holy martyrs.*

- + The Holy Martyrs Zeno (Ζήνων) and Zenas (Ζηνάς) of Philadelphia in Arabia (+304)

*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 (Του λίθου σφραφισθέντος, 1<sup>st</sup> Mode):*

The stone having been sealed by the Pharisees and chief priests, \* and Your all-immaculate body being guarded by soldiers, \* You rose on the third day, O Lord and Savior, granting life unto the world. \* Then the powers of the heavens cried out to You, O Giver of Life, and shouted, \* “Glory to Your resurrection, O Christ! \* Glory to Your eternal rule! \* Glory to Your plan for saving us, only benevolent God!” *(Sung before and after the Small Entrance, Greek text in hymnal on pg. 98)*

- *Hymn of the Holy Cross (Σώσον Κύριε, 1<sup>st</sup> 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 Normal Kontakion of the Theotokos (Προστασία των Χριστιανών, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 in hymnal on pg. 224)*

## Guidance, Prayer Requests, and Announcements

### **This Week's Daily**

#### **Scripture Readings and Fasting Guidance:**

**Sunday, June 22:** Fish, Wine, Oil:

Mark 16:1-8; Romans 2:10-16; Matthew 4:18-23

**Monday, June 23—Fish, Wine, Oil:**

Romans 7:1-14; Matthew 9:36-38, 10:1-8

**Tuesday, June 24:** Nativity of St. John the Baptist—Fish, Wine, Oil:

Luke 1:24-25, 57-68, 76, 80; Romans 13:11-14, 14:1-4;

Luke 1:1-25, 57-68, 76, 80

**Wednesday, June 25—Strict Fast:**

Romans 8:2-13; Matthew 10:16-22

**Thursday, June 26—Fish, Wine, Oil:**

Romans 8:22-27; Matthew 10:23-31

**Friday, June 27—Strict Fast:**

Romans 9:6-19; Matthew 10:32-36, 11:1

**Saturday, June 28—Fish, Wine, Oil:**

Romans 3:28-31, 4:1-3; Matthew 7:24-29, 8:1-4

### **Prayer Requests for Health of Soul and Body:**

Metropolitan Alexios, Fr. Symeon (mission priest supported by our parish), Fr. Mike, Panteleimon, Kassiani, Dimitri, Georgia, Pavlos, Maria, 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, Virgil

### **Prayers for those recently reposed:**

Franklin (+May 21), Virginia (+May 24), Tina (+June 12), Tim (+June 14)

### **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. Theodore the Studite**, in praise of the Forerunner, Saint John the Baptist, whose Nativity will celebrate this week: “Therefore, it seems to me appropriate to represent the greatness of the Forerunner in the following image. Just as an ordinary king, leaving the royal chambers, has as his predecessors lictors and mace-bearers, and then hypats, iparchs and brigadiers, and then some high dignitary, behind whom the king himself immediately appears, shining with gold and precious stones: so should one think about the true and the only universal King, Christ our Lord. For He, who was to enter into the universe with flesh, was preceded by the patriarchs - Abraham, Isaac, Jacob - then the God-seer Moses, Aaron and Samuel, and the whole chorus of the prophets; finally, John appeared, and immediately after him the Lord Christ, about

whom John says: "This was he of whom I spoke: He that comes after me is preferred before me, for he was before me" (John 1:15), - and the last in order is the highest in dignity, according to comparison. Thus, the great Forerunner is higher than the prophets, and the apostles, and all others, according to the word of the true Word Christ: he is higher than the prophets, as succeeding them, and the apostles, as preceding them.”

### **Upcoming Celebrations This Week**

**Name Days—Chronia Polla, Many Years!**

June 24: Jessica Holland

**Birthdays—Happy Birthday!**

June 24: Marissa Goss

June 25: Lori Crouse

**Anniversaries—Congratulations!**

June 24: Chrissy and Guy Holland

June 25: Maria and Tim Murphy

June 26: Chrissy and Tom Zdrakas

June 28: Mina and Richard Stewart

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

### **Announcements:**

\* We are currently in the midst of 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 25 at 6:30pm (after the Vespers) in the Church Library/on Zoom. The topic will be “The Church of the Fathers.” 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** will begin anew on Thursday, July 10. We will be reading the book *For the Life of the World* by Fr. Alexander Schmemmann.

\* There will be a meeting for this year's **Cross Dive** that will take place after the Divine Liturgy/Coffee Fellowship on next 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.

\* There will be a class for learning how to bake **prosfora** (the bread used for Holy Communion) on Wednesday, July 9 at 9:30am. Please contact Natalia if you would like to attend!

\* Please save the date for a summer Church picnic during the late afternoon/early evening of Saturday, July 12. More details to follow!

\* 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.