



HOLY CROSS

GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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

Sunday, July 20, 2025

Sixth Sunday of Matthew

Holy Prophet Elijah

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

Mode of the Week: Plagal of the First/Πλ. του Πρώτου

QR Codes (scan with smart phone for service texts)

Orthros, part 1



Orthros, part 2



Divine Liturgy



Upcoming Schedule

Today, July 20

9:15am Orthros
10:30am Divine Liturgy on the Feast Day of the Holy Prophet Elias (Elijah)
Coffee Fellowship in the Parish House after the Liturgy
12:45pm Bible Study

Tuesday, July 22

9:30am Orthros
10:30am Divine Liturgy on the Feast Day of St. Mary Magdalene
5:30pm Cross Dive Meeting

Wednesday, July 23

3:00pm Red Cross Blood Drive in the Parish House (until 7:00pm)
5:30pm Vespers for the Feast of St. Christina the Martyr
6:30pm Introduction to the Orthodox Church Class in the Library/Zoom

Friday, July 25

9:30am Orthros
10:30am Divine Liturgy on the Dormition of St. Anna, mother of the Theotokos

Saturday, July 26

9:30am Orthros
10:30am Divine Liturgy on the Feast Day of St. Paraskevi
4:00pm Youth Outing at Rigby's Waterpark

Sunday, July 27

9:15am Orthros
10:30am Divine Liturgy on the 7th Sunday of Matthew
Memorial Service for reposed members of the Zoumberis Family at the end of the Liturgy
Coffee Fellowship in the Parish House after the Liturgy
1:00pm Youth Greek Dance

Wednesday, July 30

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

Thursday, July 31

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

Friday, August 1

9:30am Orthros
10:30am Divine Liturgy on the Feast of the Procession of the Holy Cross and the beginning of the Dormition Fast
5:30pm Small Paraklesis

Saturday, August 2

3:45pm Introduction to the Orthodox Church Class in the Library/Zoom
5:00pm Great Vespers

Sunday, August 3

9:15am Orthros
10:30am Divine Liturgy on the 8th Sunday of Matthew
"Backpack Blessing" of the Teachers and Students at the end of the Liturgy
Coffee Fellowship after the Liturgy
12:45pm Bible Study

Upcoming Epistle Readers: (7/27) Chad Ridley, Nicholas True; (8/3) Haris Sorovigas, Caroline Saratsiotis

Upcoming PC Member On-Duty: (7/27) Chad Ridley; (8/3) Gray Yates; (8/10) Natalia Saratsiotis; (8/17) Jim Lekas

Upcoming Ushers: (7/22) Sarah D.; (7/23) Charles G.; (7/25) Eleni A.; (7/26) Maria S.; (7/27) Erick+Cheryl S.

Upcoming Video Operators: (7/25) Norm A.; (7/27) Gray, David N.; (8/1a) Cristina L.; (8/1p) Natalia S.; (8/3) Joanna

Fellowship Hosts: (7/27) Beth Zoumberis; (8/3) Ehmers; (8/10) Planning Committee; (8/17) Philoptochos/Panagiri

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

Σὺ ἱερεὺς εἰς τὸν αἰῶνα κατὰ τὴν τάξιν
Μελχισεδέκ.
Στίχ. Εἶπεν ὁ Κύριος τῷ Κυρίῳ μου· Κάθου ἐκ
δεξιῶν μου.
+++
Καθολικῆς Ἐπιστολῆς Ἰακώβου τὸ
ἀνάγνωσμα.
+++

Ἀδελφοί, ὑπόδειγμα λάβετε τῆς κακοπαθείας καὶ τῆς μακροθυμίας τοὺς προφῆτας, οἱ ἐλάλησαν τῷ ὀνόματι Κυρίου. ἰδοὺ μακαρίζομεν τοὺς ὑπομένοντας· τὴν ὑπομονὴν Ἰὼβ ἠκούσατε, καὶ τὸ τέλος Κυρίου εἶδετε, ὅτι πολὺσπλαγχνός ἐστιν ὁ Κύριος καὶ οἰκτίρμων. Πρὸ πάντων δέ, ἀδελφοί μου, μὴ ὀμνύετε μήτε τὸν οὐρανὸν μήτε τὴν γῆν μήτε ἄλλον τινὰ ὄρκον· ἦτω δὲ ὑμῶν τὸ ναὶ ναί, καὶ τὸ οὐ οὐ, ἵνα μὴ εἰς ὑπόκρισιν πέσητε. Κακοπαθεῖ τις ἐν ὑμῖν; προσευχέσθω· εὐθυμεῖ τις; ψαλλέτω. ἀσθενεῖ τις ἐν ὑμῖν; προσκαλεσάσθω τοὺς πρεσβυτέρους τῆς ἐκκλησίας, καὶ προσευξάσθωσαν ἐπ’ αὐτὸν ἀλείψαντες αὐτὸν ἐλαίῳ ἐν τῷ ὀνόματι τοῦ Κυρίου· καὶ ἡ εὐχὴ τῆς πίστεως σώσει τὸν κάμνοντα, καὶ ἐγερεῖ αὐτὸν ὁ Κύριος· κἂν ἁμαρτίας ἦ πεποιηκώς, ἀφεθήσεται αὐτῷ. ἐξομολογεῖσθε ἀλλήλοις τὰ παραπτώματα, καὶ εὐχεσθε ὑπὲρ ἀλλήλων, ὅπως ἰαθῆτε· πολὺ ἰσχύει δέησις δικαίου ἐνεργουμένη. Ἥλιος ἄνθρωπος ἦν ὁμοιοπαθὴς ἡμῖν, καὶ προσευχῇ προσηύξατο τοῦ μὴ βρέξαι, καὶ οὐκ ἔβρεξεν ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς ἐνιαυτοὺς τρεῖς καὶ μῆνας ἕξ· καὶ πάλιν προσηύξατο, καὶ ὁ οὐρανὸς ὑετὸν ἔδωκε καὶ ἡ γῆ ἐβλάστησε τὸν καρπὸν αὐτῆς. Ἀδελφοί, ἐάν τις ἐν ὑμῖν πλανηθῇ ἀπὸ τῆς ἀληθείας, καὶ ἐπιστρέψῃ τις αὐτόν, γινωσκέτω ὅτι ὁ ἐπιστρέψας ἁμαρτωλὸν ἐκ πλάνης ὁδοῦ αὐτοῦ σώσει ψυχὴν ἐκ θανάτου καὶ καλύψει πλῆθος ἁμαρτιῶν.

You are a priest forever according to the
order of Melchizedek.
Verse: The Lord said to my Lord: “Sit at My
right hand, until I make your enemies the
footstool of Your feet.”
+++
The reading is from the Universal Letter of
James. (5:10-20)
+++

Brethren, take as an example of suffering and patience the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. Behold, we call those happy who were steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful. But above all, my brethren, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or with any other oath, but let your yes be yes and your no be no, that you may not fall into hypocrisy. Is any one among you suffering? Let him pray. Is any cheerful? Let him sing praise. Is any among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord; and the prayer of faith will save the sick man, and the Lord will raise him up; and if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man has great power in its effects. Elijah was a man of like nature with ourselves and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. Then he prayed again and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth its fruit. My brethren, if any one among you wanders from the truth and some one brings him back, let him know that whoever brings back a sinner from the error of his way will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

The Holy Gospel Reading according to St. Matthew (9:1-8)

Sixth Sunday of Matthew

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ ἐμβὰς ὁ Ἰησοῦς εἰς πλοῖον διεπέρασε καὶ ἦλθεν εἰς τὴν ἰδίαν πόλιν. Καὶ ἰδοὺ προσέφερον αὐτῷ παραλυτικὸν ἐπὶ κλίνης βεβλημένον· καὶ ἰδὼν ὁ Ἰησοῦς τὴν πίστιν αὐτῶν εἶπε τῷ παραλυτικῷ· θάρσει, τέκνον· ἀφέωνταί σοι αἱ ἁμαρτίαι σου. καὶ ἰδοὺ τινες τῶν γραμματέων εἶπον ἐν ἑαυτοῖς· οὗτος βλασφημεῖ. καὶ ἰδὼν ὁ Ἰησοῦς τὰς ἐνθυμήσεις αὐτῶν εἶπεν· ἵνα τί ὑμεῖς ἐνθυμεῖσθε πονηρὰ ἐν ταῖς καρδίαις ὑμῶν; τί γάρ ἐστιν εὐκοπώτερον, εἰπεῖν, ἀφέωνταί σου αἱ ἁμαρτίαι, ἢ εἰπεῖν, ἔγειρε καὶ περιπάτει; ἵνα δὲ εἰδῆτε ὅτι ἐξουσίαν ἔχει ὁ υἱὸς τοῦ ἀνθρώπου ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς ἀφιέναι ἁμαρτίας — τότε λέγει τῷ παραλυτικῷ· ἐγερθεὶς ἄρὸν σου τὴν κλίνην καὶ ὕπαγε εἰς τὸν οἶκόν σου. καὶ ἐγερθεὶς ἀπῆλθεν εἰς τὸν οἶκον αὐτοῦ. ἰδόντες δὲ οἱ ὄχλοι ἐθαύμασαν καὶ ἐδόξασαν τὸν Θεὸν τὸν δόντα ἐξουσίαν τοιαύτην τοῖς ἀνθρώποις.

At that time, getting into a boat Jesus crossed over and came to his own city. And behold, they brought to him a paralytic, lying on his bed; and when Jesus saw their faith he said to the paralytic, “Take heart, my son; your sins are forgiven.” And behold, some of the scribes said to themselves, “This man is blaspheming.” But Jesus, seeing their thoughts, said, “Why do you think evil in your hearts? For which is easier, to say ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say ‘Rise and walk?’ But that you may know that the Son of man has authority on earth to forgive sins,” he then said to the paralytic — “Rise, take up your bed and go home.” And he rose and went home. When the crowds saw it, they were afraid, and they glorified God, who had given such authority to men.

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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 July 20, 2025

Ushers on Duty: John Apostolou, Charles Glotzbach

Video: Natalia Saratsiotis Altar Servers: All Adult/Youth Servers

Epistle Readers: Pete Tsamolias (Greek); Charles Glotzbach (English)

Fellowship Host (Thank You!): Antigone Michalakis

PC Member On-Duty: Sarah Drakopoulos



Today our Holy Orthodox Church commemorates:

- + The Holy Prophet Elijah the Tishbite (+9th century BC)

Elias of great fame was from Thisbite or Thesbe, a town of Galaad (Gilead), beyond the Jordan. He was of priestly lineage, a man of a solitary and ascetical character, clothed in a mantle of sheep skin, and girded about his loins with a leathern belt. His name is interpreted as "Yah is my God." His zeal for the glory of God was compared to fire, and his speech for teaching and rebuke was likened unto a burning lamp. From this too he received the name Zealot. Therefore, set aflame with such zeal, he sternly reproved the impiety and lawlessness of Ahab and his wife Jezebel. He shut up heaven by means of prayer, and it did not rain for three years and six months. Ravens brought him food for his need when, at God's command, he was hiding by the torrent of Horraht. He multiplied the little flour and oil of the poor widow of Sarephtha of Sidon, who had given him hospitality in her home, and when her son died, he raised him up. He brought down fire from Heaven upon Mount Carmel, and it burned up the sacrifice offered to God before all the people of Israel, that they might know the truth. At the torrent of Kisson, he slew 450 false prophets and priests who worshipped idols and led the people astray. He received food wondrously at the hand of an Angel, and being strengthened by this food he walked for forty days and forty nights. He beheld God on Mount Horeb, as far as this is possible for human nature. He foretold the destruction of the house of Ahab, and the death of his son Ohozias; and as for the two captains of fifty that were sent by the king, he burned them for their punishment, bringing fire down from Heaven. He divided the flow of the Jordan, and he and his disciple Elisseus passed through as it were on dry land; and finally, while speaking with him, Elias was suddenly snatched away by a fiery chariot in the year 895 B.C., and he ascended as though into heaven, whither God most certainly translated him alive, as He did Enoch (Gen. 5:24; IV Kings 2: 11).

- + Our Devout Mother Maria Skobtsova, New Martyr of France (+1945)

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 (Τὸν συνάναρχον Λόγον, Plagal 1st Mode):

As the Father and Spirit are unoriginate, * so the Word, who was born from the Virgin for us. * Let us praise Him, O believers, and let us worship Him. * For our salvation He was pleased * to be crucified in the flesh, * and to undergo death, * and to resurrect the dead, by His glorious resurrection. (Sung before and after the Small Entrance, Greek text in hymnal on pg. 114)

- Hymn of the Prophet Elijah (Ὁ ἐνσαρκὸς ἄγγελος, 4th Mode):

The angel incarnate and the Prophets' pedestal, * the second Forerunner of the coming of Christ, Elias the glorious, * sent down to Elisha the divine grace from heaven. * He drives away diseases and he cleanses lepers. * Therefore he pours out healings to those who honor him.

- Hymn of the Holy Cross (Σῶσον 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 Normal Kontakion of the Theotokos (Προστασία τῶν Χριστιανῶν, 2nd 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

Upcoming Celebrations This Week

Name Days—Chronia Polla, Many Years!

July 20: Cleo Bennette, Louis Bennette

July 22: Joan Cabral, Marcela Chiorescu, Milijana Hansee, Mary Monika Robinson

July 24: Christine Sprouse

July 26: Vivi Iakovidis

Birthdays—Happy Birthday!

July 21: Diane Berkner, Alex Sorovigas, John Sorovigas

July 22: Afrodite Berberidis, Rene Anthonis Esquivel, Jr.

July 24: Eleni Adams

Anniversaries—Congratulations!

July 20: Paula and Jimmy Cacavias

July 22: Holly and Tony Economopoulos

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

Announcements:

* There will be a **Cross Dive Committee** Meeting on Tuesday, June 22nd at 5:30pm. For those who cannot attend, there will be a Zoom Link. If you would like to join the committee, please contact Natalia or Cristina.

* The next **Introduction to the Orthodox Church** class will take place Wednesday, July 23 at 6:30pm (after the Vespers) in the Church Library/on Zoom. The topic will be "What We Believe About the Saints and the Theotokos." 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 continue next Thursday, July 31 at the Taste and See coffee shop in Downtown Macon. We are reading the book *For the Life of the World* by Fr. Alexander Schmemmann, of blessed memory. There are copies of the book available in our Holy Cross Bookstore. Please plan on joining on Thursday mornings!

* **Youth:** Please save the date for our annual outing at Rigby's on Saturday, July 26. Details have been sent by email.

* **FESTIVAL NEWS: Sponsorship Opportunities** have begun! We would love for everyone to find a new business to go in the program book. Please consider taking a form located in the Narthex and/or Parish House to a business here in Central Georgia. In addition to finding a business, if you would like to put a "Congratulations", "In Memory of", or any other family message, we are accepting those as well. All sponsorships (including artwork for the program book) is due August 15th. Scan the QR code to submit an ad. Contact Natalia if you have any questions. **Save the date** for Spanakopita preparation on August 16. Also, be sure to mark your calendars for October 24-26!

* The next **Red Cross Blood Drive** will be taking place on the afternoon of Wednesday, July 23 from 3:00 to 7:00pm in the Parish House.

* Please plan on being at the services on Sunday, August 10. We will have a special presentation at the end of the Liturgy by **Fr. Panayiotis Papageorgiou** of Holy Transfiguration in Marietta about Holy Iconography.

This Week's Daily

Scripture Readings and Fasting Guidance:

Sunday, July 20: Prophet Elias—No Fasting:

Luke 24:36-53; James 5:10-20; Matthew 9:1-8

Monday, July 21—No Fasting:

I Corinthians 5:9-13; 6:1-11; Matthew 13:54-58

Tuesday, July 22: St. Mary Magdalene—No Fasting:

I Corinthians 9:2-12; Luke 8:1-3

Wednesday, July 23—Strict Fast:

I Corinthians 7:12-24; Matthew 14:35-36, 15:1-11

Thursday, July 24: St. Christina—No Fasting:

I Corinthians 7:24-35; Matthew 15:12-21

Friday, July 25: Dormition of St. Anna—Wine+Oil:

Galatians 4:22-27; Luke 8:16-21

Saturday, July 26: St. Paraskevi—No Fasting:

Galatians 3:23-29, 4:1-5; Mark 5:24-34

Prayer Requests for Health of Soul and Body:

Metropolitan Alexios, Fr. Symeon (mission priest supported by our parish), Fr. Mike, Panteleimon, Kassiani, Dimitri, Georgia, 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, Lucy, George, John, Pauline

Prayers for those recently reposed:

Tina (+June 12), Tim (+June 14), Samuel (+June 26),

Ray (+July 7), Lee Pavlos (+July 9), Bill (+July 13)

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, Daniel, Ekaterina, Gavin, Hannah, Jessica, Julian, Kyle, Macayla, Max, Mary Emma, Nate, Ron, Sophia, Susan, Sydney, Tammy, Tristan and pray for those who are seeking Christ and His Church!

Weekly Wisdom of the Fathers and Mothers of our Holy Orthodox Church:

Bishop Theophylact of Bulgaria in his commentary on Luke's Gospel and referring to the "seven demons" of St. Mary Magdalene: "As there are seven spirits of virtue thus there are against them seven spirits of evil. As there is a spirit of fear of God, thus there is against it a spirit of a lack of fear of God. There is a spirit of understanding, there is against it a spirit of a lack of understanding, and the same with the rest of them. Unless, therefore these seven spirits of evil leave from the soul, it's not possible for one to follow Christ. For first Satan must be removed from him, and then Christ will inhabit him." *St. Mary Magdalene is commemorated this coming week on July 22.*

