



HOLY CROSS

GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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

Sunday, August 17, 2025

Tenth Sunday of Matthew

Sts. Myron the Martyr

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

Mode of the Week: First / Πρώτος

QR Codes (scan with smart phone for service texts)

Orthros, part 1



Orthros, part 2



Divine Liturgy



Upcoming Schedule

Today, August 17

9:15am Orthros
10:30am Divine Liturgy on the 10th Sunday of Matthew
One Year Memorial for Ronnie Hortman and 40-day Memorial for Lee Hornbaker at the end of the Liturgy
Artoklasia (Blessing of the Five Loaves) for the visit of the Panagia Prousiotissa Icon
Blessing of the new Philoptochos Board Members
Panagiri honoring Panagia hosted by the Philoptochos after the Liturgy in the Parish House/Courtyard

Tuesday, August 19

6:15pm Vespers honoring the Holy Prophet Samuel
7:00pm Parish Council Meeting

Wednesday, August 20

5:30pm Vespers
6:00pm Introduction to the Orthodox Church Class (Lecture in the Church)

Thursday, August 21

10:30am Orthodox Book Study at Taste and See in Macon
6:45pm Festival Committee Meeting

Saturday, August 23

9:30am Orthros
10:30am Divine Liturgy on the Feast Day of Panagia Prousiotissa, the feast day of our Chapel

Sunday, August 24

9:15am Orthros
10:30am Divine Liturgy on the 11th Sunday of Matthew
Coffee Fellowship after the Liturgy in the Parish House
12:45pm Bible Study
1:00pm Youth Greek Dance

Tuesday, August 26

6:00pm Divine Liturgy on the Feast Day of Sts. Adrian and Natalia
7:00pm Cross Dive Meeting

Wednesday, August 27

6:00pm Introduction to the Orthodox Church Class in the on Zoom

Thursday, August 28

10:30am Orthodox Book Study at Taste and See in Macon

Friday, August 29

9:30am Orthros
10:30am Divine Liturgy on the Remembrance of the Beheading of St. John the Baptist

Saturday, August 30

5:00pm Great Vespers

Sunday, August 31

9:15am Orthros
10:30am Divine Liturgy on the Commemoration of the Holy Belt (Αγία Ζώνη) of the Theotokos
Blessing of the Phanouropita at the end of the Liturgy
Coffee Fellowship in the Parish House after the Liturgy
12:45pm Bible Study/Youth Greek Dance

Upcoming Epistle Readers: (8/24) Kostas Iakovidis, Chrissy Zdrakas; (8/31) Aleca Hortman, Nicholas True
Upcoming PC Member On-Duty: (8/24) John Apostolou; (8/31) Maria Spicer; (9/7) Sarah Drakopoulos; (9/14) Chad
Upcoming Ushers: (8/20) Cristina L.; (8/23) Maria S.; (8/24) Erick+Cheryl S.; (8/26) Charles G.; (8/29) Haris S.
Upcoming Video Operators: (8/24) David Z.; (8/29) OPEN; (8/31) Gray Y./David N.; (9/7) Joanna P.; (9/8) OPEN
Fellowship Hosts: (8/24) Maria Bronisevsky, Joanna Patronis; (8/31) Phioptochos; (9/7) Georgia Saratsiotis

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 αἰνεσις.

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Πρὸς Κορινθίους Α΄ Ἐπιστολῆς
Παύλου τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα.

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Ἀδελφοί, ὁ Θεὸς ἡμᾶς τοὺς
ἀποστόλους ἐσχάτους ἀπέδειξεν, ὡς
ἐπιθανατίους, ὅτι θέατρον ἐγενήθημεν
τῷ κόσμῳ, καὶ ἀγγέλοις καὶ
ἀνθρώποις. ἡμεῖς μωροὶ διὰ Χριστόν,
ὕμεις δὲ φρόνιμοι ἐν Χριστῷ· ἡμεῖς
ἀσθενεῖς, ὕμεις δὲ ἰσχυροὶ· ὕμεις
ἐνδοξοὶ, ἡμεῖς δὲ ἄτιμοι. ἄχρι τῆς ἄρτι
ᾠρας καὶ πεινῶμεν καὶ διψῶμεν καὶ
γυμνητεύομεν καὶ κολαφιζόμεθα καὶ
ἀστατοῦμεν καὶ κοπιῶμεν
ἐργαζόμενοι ταῖς ἰδίαις χερσί·
λοιδορούμενοι εὐλογοῦμεν,
διωκόμενοι ἀνεχόμεθα,
βλασφημούμενοι παρακαλοῦμεν· ὡς
περικαθάρματα τοῦ κόσμου
ἐγενήθημεν, πάντων περίψημα ἕως
ἄρτι. Οὐκ ἐντρέπων ὑμᾶς γράφω
ταῦτα, ἀλλ’ ὡς τέκνα μου ἀγαπητὰ
νουθετῶ. ἐὰν γὰρ μυρίους
παιδαγωγοὺς ἔχητε ἐν Χριστῷ, ἀλλ’
οὐ πολλοὺς πατέρας· ἐν γὰρ Χριστῷ
Ἰησοῦ διὰ τοῦ εὐαγγελίου ἐγὼ ὑμᾶς
ἐγέννησα. παρακαλῶ οὖν ὑμᾶς,
μιμηταί μου γίνεσθε.

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 First
Letter to the Corinthians. (4:9-16)

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Brethren, God has exhibited us
apostles as last of all, like men
sentenced to death; because we have
become a spectacle to the world, to
angels and to men. We are fools for
Christ’s sake, but you are wise in
Christ. We are weak, but you are
strong. You are held in honor, but
we in disrepute. To the present hour
we hunger and thirst, we are ill-clad
and buffeted and homeless, and we
labor, working with our own hands.
When reviled, we bless; when
persecuted, we endure; when
slandered, we try to conciliate; we
have become, and are now, as the
refuse of the world, the off-scouring
of all things. I do not write this to
make you ashamed, but to
admonish you as my beloved
children. For though you have
countless guides in Christ, you do
not have many fathers. For I became
your father in Christ Jesus through
the gospel. I urge you, then, be
imitators of me.

The Holy Gospel Reading according to St. Matthew (17:14-23)

Tenth Sunday of Matthew

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, ἄνθρωπός τις
προσῆλθεν τῷ Ἰησοῦ, γονυπετῶν
αὐτὸν καὶ λέγων· Κύριε, ἐλέησόν μου
τὸν υἱόν, ὅτι σεληνιάζεται καὶ κακῶς
πάσχει· πολλάκις γὰρ πίπτει εἰς τὸ
πῦρ καὶ πολλάκις εἰς τὸ ὕδωρ. καὶ
προσήνεγκα αὐτὸν τοῖς μαθηταῖς
σου, καὶ οὐκ ἠδυνήθησαν αὐτὸν
θεραπεῦσαι. ἀποκριθεὶς δὲ ὁ Ἰησοῦς
εἶπεν· ὦ γενεὰ ἄπιστος καὶ
διστραμμένη! ἕως πότε ἔσομαι μεθ’
ὕμων; ἕως πότε ἀνέξομαι ὑμῶν;
φέρετέ μοι αὐτὸν ὧδε. καὶ
ἐπετίμησεν αὐτῷ ὁ Ἰησοῦς, καὶ
ἐξῆλθεν ἀπ’ αὐτοῦ τὸ δαιμόνιον καὶ
ἐθεραπεύθη ὁ παῖς ἀπὸ τῆς ᾠρας
ἐκείνης. Τότε προσελθόντες οἱ
μαθηταὶ τῷ Ἰησοῦ κατ’ ἰδίαν εἶπον·
διατί ἡμεῖς οὐκ ἠδυνήθημεν ἐκβαλεῖν
αὐτό; ὁ δὲ Ἰησοῦς εἶπεν αὐτοῖς· διὰ
τὴν ἀπιστίαν ὑμῶν. ἀμὴν γὰρ λέγω
ὑμῖν, ἐὰν ἔχητε πίστιν ὡς κόκκον
σινάπεως, ἐρεῖτε τῷ ὄρει τούτῳ,
μετάβηθι ἐντεῦθεν ἐκεῖ, καὶ
μεταβήσεται, καὶ οὐδὲν ἀδυνατήσκει
ὑμῖν. τοῦτο δὲ τὸ γένος οὐκ
ἐκπορεύεται εἰ μὴ ἐν προσευχῇ καὶ
νηστείᾳ. Ἀναστρεφομένων δὲ αὐτῶν
εἰς τὴν Γαλιλαίαν εἶπεν αὐτοῖς ὁ
Ἰησοῦς· μέλλει ὁ υἱὸς τοῦ ἀνθρώπου
παραδίδοσθαι εἰς χεῖρας ἀνθρώπων
καὶ ἀποκτενοῦσιν αὐτόν, καὶ τῇ τρίτῃ
ἡμέρᾳ ἐγερθήσεται.

At that time, a man came up to
Jesus and kneeling before him
said, “Lord, have mercy on my
son, for he is an epileptic and he
suffers terribly; for often he falls
into the fire, and often into the
water. And I brought him to your
disciples, and they could not heal
him.” And Jesus answered, “O
faithless and perverse generation,
how long am I to be with you?
How long am I to bear with you?
Bring him here to me.” And Jesus
rebuked him, and the demon
came out of him, and the boy was
cured instantly. Then the disciples
came to Jesus privately and said,
“Why could we not cast it out?” He
said to them, “Because of your
little faith. For truly I say to you, if
you have faith as a grain of
mustard seed, you will say to this
mountain, ‘Move hence to yonder
place,’ and it will move; and
nothing will be impossible to you.
But this kind never comes out
except by prayer and fasting.” As
they abode in Galilee, Jesus said
to them, “The Son of man is to be
delivered into the hands of men,
and they will kill him, and he will
be raised on the third day.”

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 August 17, 2025

Ushers on Duty: Jim Lekas, Cristina Lekas

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

Epistle Readers: Helen Troupos (Greek); Sarah Drakopoulos (English)

Fellowship Host (Thank You!): Philoptochos (Panagiri)

PC Member On-Duty: Jim Lekas



Today our Holy Orthodox Church commemorates:

- + After-feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos (Κοίμησις της Θεοτόκου)

The Dormition of the Theotokos was celebrated on August 15—and the after-feast lasts until August 23.

- + The Holy Martyr Myron (Μύρων) of Cyzicus (+250)

Saint Myron was a priest during the reign of Decius, when Antipater was ruler of Achaia. On the day of our Lord's Nativity, Antipater entered the church to seize the Christians and punish them. Saint Myron, kindled with holy zeal, roundly insulted Antipater, for which he was hung up and scraped, then cast into a raging furnace, but was preserved unharmed. When Myron refused to worship the idols, Antipater commanded that strips be cut in the Saint's flesh from his shoulders to his feet; the Saint took one of the strips of his flesh and flung it in the tyrant's face. He was beaten, and scraped again upon his beaten flesh; then he was thrown to wild beasts, but when Antipater saw them leaving off their fierce nature and protecting the Saint from harm, he was overcome with unbearable shame and slew himself. The Saint was then sent to Cyzicus, where the proconsul had him beheaded, about the year 250.

- + The Holy Martyrs Straton (Στράτων), Philip (Φίλλιπος), Eftyhianos (Ευτυχιανός), and Cyprian (Κυπριανός) of Nicomedia (+303)

- + The Holy Martyrs Paul (Παύλος) and his siter Juliana (Ιουλιανή) at Ptolemais in Syria (+273)

- + The Holy Martyrs Thyrsus (Θύρσος), Leucius (Λεύκιος), Coronatus (Κορωνάτος), and those with them of Caesarea in Bithynia (+250)

- + The Venerable Monastic Martyr Macarius (Μακάριος) of Mount St. Auxentius, martyred in defense of the holy icons (+768)

- + The Holy Devout Monastic Martyr Demetrios (Δημήτριος) the New from Samarina, Epiros (+1808)

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 Dormition (Εν τη Γεννήσει, First Mode):

You gave birth yet preserved your virginity. You fell asleep in death yet did not desert the world, O Theotokos. You were transported to life, as you are Mother of Life and, by virtue of your intercessions, deliver our souls from death. *(Sung before the Small Entrance and after the Hymn of the Resurrection, Greek text found in hymnal on pg. 222)*

- Weekly Resurrectional Hymn (Του λίθου σφραγισθέντος, First 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!" *(Greek text found in hymnal on pg. 98)*

- Hymn of Panagia Prousiotissa (Της Ελλάδος, First Mode):

As champion of all Greece you stand arrayed, and worker of extraordinary wonders by Your Icon from Proussa, Immaculate Virgin Mary; for swiftly you give light to the blind, drive dread demons far away, and also loving Lady, brace the paralyzed. All those who have recourse to you, you save from beetling cliffs and every harm. Glory to your child-bearing without seed! Glory to the One who made you great! Glory to the One who through you works such wonders!

- Hymn of the Memorial Service (Μνήσθητι, Κύριε, Plagal of the Fourth Mode):

Remember, O Lord, as You are good, Your servants, and forgive every sin they have committed in this life. For no one is sinless except You, Who has power to grant rest to those who have fallen asleep.

- 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 Kontakion of the Dormition (Την εν πρεσβείαις, Second Mode):

The Theotokos is undying in intercession. Immovable is our hope in her for protection. Neither death nor burial prevailed over her. As she is Mother of Life, she was removed to life by Him, the Lord who lived in her ever-virgin womb. *(Greek text found in hymnal on pg. 288)*

Guidance, Prayer Requests, and Announcements

This Week's Daily Scripture Readings and Fasting Guidance:

Sunday, August 17—No Fasting:

John 21:1-14; I Corinthians 4:9-16; Matthew 17:14-23

Monday, August 18—No Fasting:

II Corinthians 2:3-15; Matthew 23:13-22

Tuesday, August 19—No Fasting:

II Corinthians 2:14-17, 3:1-3; Matthew 23:23-28

Wednesday, August 20—Strict Fast:

II Corinthians 3:4-11; Matthew 23:29-39

Thursday, August 21: St. Thaddeus the Holy Apostle—No Fasting:

II Corinthians 4:1-12; Mark 3:13-21

Friday, August 22—Strict Fast:

II Corinthians 4:13-18; Matthew 24: 27-33, 42-51

Saturday, August 23: Panagia Prousiotissa—No Fasting:

Philippians 2:5-11; Luke 10:38-42, 11:27-28

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, 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, Kristen, Diane, Lydia, Virgil, Lucy, George, John, Pauline, Woody, Bill, Nicholas, Mandy

Prayers for those recently reposed:

Lee Pavlos (+July 9), Bill (+July 13), Irene (+July 26), Rick (+July 31)

Prayers for expecting mothers:

Antigone, 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, Ecaterina, 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:

St. Ambrose of Milan on the ministry of the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary: “...“Why is it hard to believe that Mary gave birth in a way contrary to the law of natural birth and remained a virgin, when contrary to the law of nature the sea looked at Him and fled, and the waters of the Jordan returned to their source (Ps. 113:3). Is it past belief that a virgin gave birth when we read that a rock issued water (Ex. 17:6), and the waves of the sea were made solid as a wall (Ex. 14:22)? Is it past belief that a Man came from a virgin when a rock bubbled forth a flowing stream (Ex. 20:11), iron floated on water (4 Kings 6:6), a Man walked upon the waters (Mt. 14:26)? If the waters bore a Man, could not a virgin give birth to a man? What Man? Him of Whom we read: ‘...the Lord shall be known to the Egyptians, and the Egyptians shall know the Lord in that day; and they shall offer sacrifices, and shall vow vows to the Lord, and pay them’ (Is. 19:20). In the Old Testament a Hebrew virgin (Miriam) led an army through the sea (Ex. 15:21); in the New testament a

king's daughter (the Virgin Mary) was chosen to be the heavenly entrance to salvation.”

Upcoming Celebrations This Week

Name Days—Chronia Polla, Many Years!

August 20: Tommy “Samuel” Roden

Birthdays—Happy Birthday!

August 17: Sofia Lekas, Nikitis Zoumberis

August 22: Schyler Johnson

August 23: Angelika Passias

Anniversaries—Congratulations!

August 19: Despina and Arty Passias

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

Announcements:

* We are thankful for the visit of the **Panagia Prousiotissa** icon today as has been our tradition. We will celebrate the Artoklasia (blessing of the five loaves) in celebration!

* The next **Introduction to the Orthodox Church** class will take place this Wednesday, August 20 at 6:00pm in the Church. The topic will be a basic overview of the Orthodox Church as we welcome some guests from another tradition. 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 Thursday, August 21 at the Taste and See coffee shop in Downtown Macon at 10:30am. We are reading the book *For the Life of the World* by Fr. Alexander Schmemmann, of blessed memory. Please plan on joining on Thursday mornings!

* **FESTIVAL INFO (OCTOBER 24-26):** Have you taken off for Friday, October 24th yet? **Raffle Tickets** are available! We are asking each family to sell 5 books. Tickets will be available at church or contact Natalia for more information. **Festival Apparel** is now on sale! Samples are located in the Bookstore (sizes and colors). **Sponsorships** were due Friday. Deadline has been extended until tomorrow (Monday). Please contact Natalia if you are interested. Use the QR Code to be directed to our Festival Page where you can find links to the Festival Apparel and Sponsorship Opportunities. Please save the date for **Pastry Prep** on October 11 and 18. We will also need help unloading the truck with pastries on one of the days of Sept. 24-26 (will know closer to time). Thank you!



* The Philoptochos is hosting the annual **Panagiri (festal celebration)**, after the Liturgy today, so please plan on staying! We will also have the blessing of the **new Philoptochos Board** at the end of the Liturgy—the new board is as follows: Sarah Drakopoulos (President), Helen Vardy (Vice President), Maria Bronisevsky (Treasurer), Denna Bradford (Asst. Treasurer), Cheryl Schwartzkopf (Secretary), Antigone Michalakis (Corresponding Secretary), Pam Poulos (Member At Large), Cleo Bennette (Advisor). May God bless them and the works of their hands!

***REGISTER TODAY** for the 4th Annual Pan-Orthodox **CROSS DIVE** that will be held Saturday, September 13th. All high school students are invited to participate while all parishioners are invited to attend and enjoy the day. There will be food, fun, laughter, and of course, the Blessing of the Waters along with the Cross Dive. Go to this link: <https://forms.gle/b3yPtC7KtUdyru5K9> or scan the QR Code. Cross Dive Apparel and Sponsorship opportunities are available through registration.

