



# HOLY CROSS

## GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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

### Sunday, August 24, 2025

Eleventh Sunday of Matthew

Sts. Comsas Aitolos

Eothinon/Orthros Gospel: Eleventh (John 21:14-25)

Mode of the Week: Second / Δεύτερος

QR Codes (scan with smart phone for service texts)

Orthros, part 1



Orthros, part 2



Divine Liturgy



### Upcoming Schedule

*Today, August 24*

9:15am Orthros  
10:30am Divine Liturgy on the 11<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Matthew  
Trisagion for the 1-Year Repose of Stephanie (Hermione) Lord  
Coffee Fellowship after the Liturgy in the Parish House  
12:45pm Bible Study/Youth Greek Dance

*Tuesday, August 26*

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

*Wednesday, August 27*

6:00pm Introduction to the Orthodox Church Class (Zoom Only)

*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 Fanouropita at the end of the Liturgy  
Coffee Fellowship in the Parish House after the Liturgy  
12:45pm Bible Study/Youth Greek Dance

*Monday, September 1*

Ecclesiastical New Year / Labor Day / Office Closed

*Thursday, September 4*

10:30am Orthodox Book Study at Taste and See in Macon  
5:30pm Vespers  
6:30pm Introduction to the Orthodox Church Class in person and on Zoom

*Saturday, September 6*

4:00pm Byzantine Chant Class in the Chapel  
5:00pm Great Vespers

*Sunday, September 7*

9:15am Orthros  
10:30am Divine Liturgy on the Sunday before Holy Cross  
40-Day Memorial for Irene Ray at the end of the Liturgy  
Coffee Fellowship after the Liturgy in the Parish House  
12:30pm Altar Server Meeting  
1:00pm Festival Grape Leaves Prep (Please bring a pair of scissors)  
1:00pm Youth Greek Dance  
6:00pm Great Vespers for the Nativity of the Theotokos

*Monday, September 8*

9:30am Orthros  
10:30am Divine Liturgy on the Nativity of the Theotokos

**Upcoming Epistle Readers:** (8/31) Aleca Hortman, Nicholas True; (9/7) Pete Tsamolias, Rene Esquivel  
**Upcoming PC Member On-Duty:** (8/31) Maria Spicer; (9/7) Sarah Drakopoulos; (9/14) Chad Ridley; (9/21) Natalia  
**Upcoming Ushers:** (8/26) Charles G.; (8/29) Haris S.; (8/30) Sarah D.; (8/31) Sarah D, John A.; (9/4) Charles  
**Upcoming Video Operators:** (8/29) OPEN; (8/31) Gray Y./David N.; (9/7) Joanna P.; (9/8) OPEN (9/14) Cristina  
**Fellowship Hosts:** (8/31) Philoptochos; (9/7) Denna, Chrissy & Donna; (9/14) Parish Council; (9/21) Mandi S.

### 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

Ἰσχύς μου καὶ ὕμνησίς μου ὁ Κύριος, καὶ  
ἐγένετό μοι εἰς σωτηρίαν.  
Στίχ. Παιδεύων ἐπαίδευσέ με ὁ Κύριος, καὶ  
τῷ θανάτῳ οὐ παρέδωκέ με.

+++

Πρὸς Κορινθίους Α΄ Ἐπιστολῆς Παύλου τὸ  
ἀνάγνωσμα.

+++

Ἀδελφοί, ἡ σφραγὶς τῆς ἐμῆς ἀποστολῆς  
ὑμεῖς ἐστε ἐν Κυρίῳ. ἡ ἐμὴ ἀπολογία τοῖς  
ἐμὲ ἀνακρίνουσιν αὕτη ἐστί. Μὴ οὐκ  
ἔχομεν ἐξουσίαν φαγεῖν καὶ πιεῖν; μὴ οὐκ  
ἔχομεν ἐξουσίαν ἀδελφὴν γυναῖκα  
περιάγειν, ὥς καὶ οἱ λοιποὶ ἀπόστολοι καὶ  
οἱ ἀδελφοὶ τοῦ Κυρίου καὶ Κηφᾶς; ἢ  
μόνος ἐγὼ καὶ Βαρνάβας οὐκ ἔχομεν  
ἐξουσίαν τοῦ μὴ ἐργάζεσθαι; τίς  
στρατεύεται ἰδίοις ὀψωνίοις ποτέ; τίς  
φυτεύει ἀμπελῶνα καὶ ἐκ τοῦ καρποῦ  
αὐτοῦ οὐκ ἐσθίει; ἢ τίς ποιμαίνει ποίμνην  
καὶ ἐκ τοῦ γάλακτος τῆς ποιμνης οὐκ  
ἐσθίει; Μὴ κατὰ ἄνθρωπον ταῦτα λαλῶ; ἢ  
οὐχὶ καὶ ὁ νόμος ταῦτα λέγει; ἐν γὰρ τῷ  
Μωϋσέως νόμῳ γέγραπται· οὐ φιμώσεις  
βοῦν ἀλοῶντα. μὴ τῶν βοῶν μέλει τῷ  
Θεῷ; ἢ δι’ ἡμᾶς πάντως λέγει; δι’ ἡμᾶς  
γὰρ ἐγγράφη, ὅτι ἐπ’ ἐλπίδι ὀφείλει ὁ  
ἀροτριῶν ἀροτριᾶν, καὶ ὁ ἀλοῶν τῆς  
ἐλπίδος αὐτοῦ μετέχειν ἐπ’ ἐλπίδι. Εἰ  
ἡμεῖς ὑμῖν τὰ πνευματικὰ ἐσπείραμεν,  
μέγα εἰ ἡμεῖς ὑμῶν τὰ σαρκικὰ θερίσομεν;  
εἰ ἄλλοι τῆς ἐξουσίας ὑμῶν μετέχουσιν,  
οὐ μᾶλλον ἡμεῖς; ἀλλ’ οὐκ ἐχρησάμεθα τῇ  
ἐξουσίᾳ ταύτῃ, ἀλλὰ πάντα στέγομεν, ἵνα  
μὴ ἐγκοπὴν τινα δῶμεν τῷ εὐαγγελίῳ τοῦ  
Χριστοῦ.

The Lord is my strength and my song,  
and He became my salvation.  
Verse: The Lord chastened and  
corrected me, but He did not give me up  
to death.

+++

The reading is from Paul’s First Letter  
to the Corinthians. (9:2-12)

+++

Brethren, you are the seal of my  
apostleship in the Lord. This is my  
defense to those who would examine me.  
Do we not have the right to our food and  
drink? Do we not have the right to be  
accompanied by a wife as sister, as the  
other apostles and the brothers of the  
Lord and Cephas? Or is it only Barnabas  
and I who have no right to refrain from  
working for a living? Who serves as a  
soldier at his own expense? Who plants a  
vineyard without eating any of its fruit?  
Who tends a flock without getting some  
of the milk? Do I say this on human  
authority? Does not the law say the  
same? For it is written in the law of  
Moses, “You shall not muzzle an ox when  
it is treading out the grain.” Is it for oxen  
that God is concerned? Does he not  
speak entirely for our sake? It was  
written for our sake, because the  
plowman should plow in hope and the  
thresher thresh in hope of a share in the  
crop. If we have sown spiritual good  
among you, is it too much if we reap  
your material things? If others share this  
rightful claim upon you, do not we still  
more? Nevertheless, we have not made  
use of this right, but we endure anything  
rather than put an obstacle in the way of  
the gospel of Christ.

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

Eleventh Sunday of Matthew

Εἶπεν ὁ Κύριος τὴν παραβολὴν ταύτην·  
Ὡμοιωθὴ ἡ βασιλεία τῶν οὐρανῶν  
ἀνθρώπῳ βασιλεῖ, ὃς ἠθέλησε συνᾶραι  
λόγον μετὰ τῶν δούλων αὐτοῦ. ἀρξαμένου  
δὲ αὐτοῦ συναίρειν προσηνέχθη αὐτῷ εἷς  
ὀφειλέτης μυρίων ταλάντων. μὴ ἔχοντος δὲ  
αὐτοῦ ἀποδοῦναι ἐκέλευσεν αὐτὸν ὁ κύριος  
αὐτοῦ πρᾶθῆναι καὶ τὴν γυναῖκα αὐτοῦ καὶ  
τὰ τέκνα καὶ πάντα ὅσα εἶχε, καὶ  
ἀποδοθῆναι. πεσὼν οὖν ὁ δοῦλος  
προσεκύνει αὐτῷ λέγων· κύριε,  
μακροθύμησον ἐπ’ ἐμοὶ καὶ πάντα σοι  
ἀποδώσω. σπλαγχνισθεὶς δὲ ὁ κύριος τοῦ  
δούλου ἐκείνου ἀπέλυσεν αὐτὸν καὶ τὸ  
δάνειον ἀφῆκεν αὐτῷ. ἐξελθὼν δὲ ὁ δοῦλος  
ἐκεῖνος εὗρεν ἓνα τῶν συνδούλων αὐτοῦ,  
ὃς ὥφειλεν αὐτῷ ἑκατὸν δηνάρια, καὶ  
κρατήσας αὐτὸν ἔπνιγε λέγων· ἀπόδος μοι  
εἷ τι ὀφείλεις. πεσὼν οὖν ὁ σύνδουλος  
αὐτοῦ εἰς τοὺς πόδας αὐτοῦ παρεκάλει  
αὐτὸν λέγων· μακροθύμησον ἐπ’ ἐμοὶ καὶ  
ἀποδώσω σοι. ὁ δὲ οὐκ ᾔθελεν, ἀλλὰ  
ἀπελθὼν ἔβαλεν αὐτὸν εἰς φυλακὴν ἕως οὗ  
ἀποδῶ τὸ ὀφειλόμενον. ἰδόντες δὲ οἱ  
σύνδουλοι αὐτοῦ τὰ γενόμενα ἐλυπήθησαν  
σφόδρα, καὶ ἐλθόντες διεσάφησαν τῷ  
κυρίῳ ἐαυτῶν πάντα τὰ γενόμενα. τότε  
προσκαλεσάμενος αὐτὸν ὁ κύριος αὐτοῦ  
λέγει αὐτῷ· δοῦλε πονηρέ, πᾶσαν τὴν  
ὀφειλὴν ἐκείνην ἀφῆκά σοι, ἐπεὶ  
παρεκάλεσάς με. οὐκ ἔδει καὶ σὲ ἐλεῆσαι  
τὸν σύνδουλόν σου, ὥς καὶ ἐγὼ σε ἠλέησα;  
καὶ ὀργισθεὶς ὁ κύριος αὐτοῦ παρέδωκεν  
αὐτὸν τοῖς βασανισταῖς ἕως οὗ ἀποδῶ πᾶν  
τὸ ὀφειλόμενον αὐτῷ. Οὕτω καὶ ὁ πατήρ  
μου ὁ ἐπουράνιος ποιήσει ὑμῖν, ἐὰν μὴ  
ἀφῆτε ἕκαστος τῷ ἀδελφῷ αὐτοῦ ἀπὸ τῶν  
καρδιῶν ὑμῶν τὰ παραπτώματα αὐτῶν.

The Lord said this parable: “The  
kingdom of heaven may be compared  
to a king who wished to settle accounts  
with his servants. When he began the  
reckoning, one was brought to him who  
owed him ten thousand talents; and as  
he could not pay, his lord ordered him  
to be sold, with his wife and children  
and all that he had, and payment to be  
made. So the servant fell on his knees,  
imploring him, ‘Lord, have patience  
with me, and I will pay you everything.’  
And out of pity for him the lord of that  
servant released him and forgave him  
the debt. But that same servant, as he  
went out, came upon one of his fellow  
servants who owed him a hundred  
denarii; and seizing him by the throat  
he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ So his  
fellow servant fell down and besought  
him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will  
pay you.’ He refused and went and put  
him in prison till he should pay the  
debt. When his fellow servants saw  
what had taken place, they were greatly  
distressed, and they went and reported  
to their lord all that had taken place.  
Then his lord summoned him and said  
to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave  
you all that debt because you besought  
me; and should not you have had mercy  
on your fellow servant, as I had mercy  
on you?’ And in anger his lord delivered  
him to the torturers, till he should pay  
all his debt. So also my heavenly Father  
will do to everyone of you, if you do not  
forgive your brother from your heart.”

# 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 August 24, 2025

**Ushers on Duty:** Erick and Cheryl Schwartzkopf

**Video:** David Z.

**Altar Servers:** All Adult/Youth Servers

**Epistle Readers:** Kostas Iakovidis (Greek); Chrissy Zdrakas (English)

**Fellowship Host (Thank You!):** Maria Bronisevsky, Joanna Patronis

**PC Member On-Duty:** John Apostolou



### Today our Holy Orthodox Church commemorates:

- + The Holy New Hieromartyr and Equal to the Apostles, Cosmas Aitolos (Κοσμάς ο Αιτωλός) (+1779)

Our holy Father Cosmas was from the town of Mega Dendron (Great Tree) of Aetolia. At the age of twenty, he went to study at the school of the Monastery of Vatopedi on the Holy Mountain. Later, he came to the Athonite Monastery of Philotheou where he was tonsured. With the blessing of his abbot, he departed for Constantinople where he learned the art of rhetoric, and thereafter, he began to preach throughout all the regions of northern Greece, the Ionian Islands, but especially in Albania, for the Christian people there were in great ignorance because of the oppression and cruelty of the Moslems. Finally, in 1779, after having greatly strengthened and enlightened the faithful, working many signs and wonders all the while, he was falsely accused by the leaders of the Jewish people and was executed by strangulation by the Moslem Turks in Albania.

- + The Holy Martyr Eftyches (Εφτυχής), disciple of St. John the Theologian and St. Paul (+1<sup>st</sup> Century)

Saint Eutyches was a disciple of Saint John the Theologian and a fellow laborer of the holy Apostle Paul. He preached the Gospel in many places, pulled down the idols' temples, and suffered imprisonments and many torments at the hands of the idolaters. He finally reposed in peace in deep old age in his native city of Sebastia, near Tarsus.

- + Our Devout Father and Confessor George Limniotis (Γεώργιος ο Λιμνιώτης) (+716)

- + Translation of the Holy Relic of our Father among the Saints, Dionysios (Διονύσιος) of Zakynthos

When Saint Dionysios died in 1622 A.D., his last wish was that he be buried in the Church of Saint George on the Strofades Islands where he lived as a monk. Three years after his interment there his body was found to be incorrupt. In 1717 his body was transferred from the Strofades Islands back to his home island of Zakynthos where it resides to this day.

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 (Ότε κατήλθες, Second Mode):*

When You descended unto Death, O Lord, You who are immortal Life put Hades to death, by the lightning of Your divinity. And when You raised the dead from the netherworld, all the hosts of heaven sang aloud to You, “O Christ God, Giver of life, glory to You! (Sung before and after the Small Entrance, Greek text found in hymnal on pg. 102)

- *Hymn of St. Cosmas Aitolos (Fourth Mode):*

With odes let us acclaim the renowned Cosmas, who gloriously excelled among the choirs of the martyrs, priests, and ascetics, and let us gather in honor, for he dispenses healing to them that have recourse to him with faith, since, as an equal of the Apostles, he has boldness before Christ.

- *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 Nativity of the Theotokos (Ιωακείμ και Άννα, Fourth Mode):*

Both Joachim and Anna from their sterility’s stigma, and Adam and Eve from their mortality’s ruin have been set free, O immaculate Maid, by your holy nativity. For this do your people hold celebration, redeemed from the guilt of transgression as they cry to you, “The barren one bears the Theotokos, the nourisher of our Life.” (Greek text found in hymnal on pg. 228)

## Guidance, Prayer Requests, and Announcements

### **This Week’s Daily Scripture Readings and Fasting Guidance:**

**Sunday, August 24—No Fasting:**

John 21:14-25; I Corinthians 9:2-12; Matthew 18:23-25

**Monday, August 25—No Fasting:**

Titus 1:1-5; 2:15; 3:1-2, 12-15; Matthew 5:14-19

**Tuesday, August 26—No Fasting:**

Hebrews 10:32-38; Mark 1:16-22

**Wednesday, August 27—Strict Fast:**

II Corinthians 6:11-16; Mark 1:23-28

**Thursday, August 28: No Fasting:**

II Corinthians 7:1-10; Mark 1:29-35

**Friday, August 29: Beheading of John the Baptist—Strict Fast:**

Matthew 14:1-13; Acts 13:25-33; Mark 6:14-30

**Saturday, August 30: No Fasting:**

I Corinthians 1:26-31; 2:1-5; Matthew 20:29-34

### **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, 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:**

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. Cosmas Aitolos, honored today (August 24) teaching us about how to make the Sign of the Cross with care: “Listen, My Brethren, how the sign of the Cross is made and what it means. First, just as the Holy Trinity is glorified in heaven by the angels, so should you join your three fingers of your right hand. And being unable to ascend into heaven to worship, raise your hand to your head (because the head means heaven) and say: “Just as the angels glorify the Holy Trinity in heaven, so do I, as a servant, glorify and worship the Holy Trinity. And as the fingers are three and separate, and are together, so is the Holy Trinity three persons but one God.” Lowering your hand to your stomach, say: “I worship you and adore you, my Lord, because you condescended and took on flesh in the womb of the Theotokos for my sins.” Place [your hand] on your right shoulder and say: “I beg you, my God, to forgive me and to put me on your right with the just.” Placing [your hand] again on your left shoulder, say: “I beg you, my Lord, don’t put me on the left with the sinners.” Then bending down to the ground [say] : “I glorify

you, my God; I worship and adore you, for just as you were put into the grave, may I also be.” And when you stand up straight, you reveal the resurrection and say: I glorify and worship you, my Lord, for you rose from the dead to grant us eternal life.”

### **Upcoming Celebrations This Week**

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

August 26: Natalia Lane, Natalia Saratsiotis

August 30: Aleca Hortman, Alexia Passias, Alex Saratsiotis, Mandi Saratsiotis, Alexandra Stefanis

**Birthdays—Happy Birthday!**

August 26: James Brock, Maria McCluskey, Jason Spicer

August 27: Kostas Berberidis, Amanda Lord

August 28: George Iakovidis

**Anniversaries—Congratulations!**

August 24: Cristina & Jim Lekas

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

### **Announcements:**

\* The next **Introduction to the Orthodox Church** class will take place this **Wednesday, August 27 at 6:30pm only on Zoom**. The topic will be our Orthodox Christian understanding of Holy Scripture/The Bible. If you would like a recording of the previous session or be included on the email list for the class, please contact Father Theodore.

\* The **Orthodox Book Study** will continue Thursday, August 28 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. Contact Father Theodore for more information.

\* **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. Contact Natalia for tickets. **Festival Apparel** is now on sale! Samples are located in the Bookstore (sizes and colors). Use the QR Code to be directed to our Festival Page where you can find links to the Festival Apparel. Please save the date for **Grape Leaves Prep** will be after Liturgy on September 7th. Please bring a pair of scissors and plan to stay. We will assemble **Dolmades** on September 20th. **Pastry Prep** will be on October 11th and 18th. 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!

\***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.

\* There will be an **Altar Server Workshop/Meeting** after Liturgy/Coffee Hour on Sunday, September 7. Please plan on attending if you serve in the Holy Altar.

\* There will be an **Epistle Reader Meeting** taking place immediately after the Divine Liturgy on Sunday, September 28. Please plan on staying for this meeting if you are an Epistle Reader (or would like to be!)

