



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, August 3, 2025

Eighth Sunday of Matthew

Sts. Dalmatus, Faustus, and Isaakius

Eothinon/Orthros Gospel: Eighth (John 20:11-18)

Mode of the Week: Grave / Βαρύς

QR Codes (scan with smart phone for service texts)

Divine Liturgy



Upcoming Schedule

Today, August 3	9:15am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy on the 8 th Sunday of Matthew “Backpack Blessing” of the Teachers and Students at the end of the Liturgy Coffee Fellowship after the Liturgy in the Parish House 12:45pm Bible Study
Tuesday, August 5	6:00pm Great Vespers presided over by Metropolitan Sevastianos for the Transfiguration of Christ (at Holy Transfiguration in Marietta) - followed by Festal Meal in their Parish Hall
Wednesday, August 6	9:30am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy on the Feast of the Transfiguration of Christ
Thursday, August 7	10:30am Orthodox Book Study at Taste and See in Macon 5:30pm Great Paraklesis
Friday, August 8	5:00pm Small Paraklesis
Saturday, August 9	3:45pm Introduction to the Orthodox Church Class in the Library/Zoom 5:00pm Great Vespers
Sunday, August 10	8:15am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy on the 9 th Sunday of Matthew Presentation by Fr. Panayiotis Papageorgiou at the end of the Liturgy Fellowship Luncheon after the Presentation in the Parish House 1:00pm Youth Greek Dance
Tuesday, August 12	5:30pm Great Paraklesis
Wednesday, August 13	5:00pm Small Paraklesis
Thursday, August 14	6:00pm Great Vespers and Lamentations for the Dormition of the Theotokos
Friday, August 15	9:30am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy on the Feast of the Dormition of the Theotokos
Saturday, August 16	8:00am Spanakopita Prep for the Festival 5:00pm Great Vespers
Sunday, August 17	9:15am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy on the 10 th Sunday of Matthew One Year Memorial for Ronnie Hortman at the end of the Liturgy Panagiri honoring Panagia hosted by the Philoptochos after the Liturgy in the Parish House/Courtyard
Tuesday, August 19	7:00pm Parish Council Meeting Upcoming Epistle Readers: (8/10) Pete Tsamolias, Cleo Bennette; (8/17) Helen Troupos, Sarah Drakopoulos Upcoming PC Member On-Duty: (8/10) Natalia Saratsiotis; (8/17) Jim Lekas; (8/24) John Apostolou; (8/31) Maria Upcoming Ushers: (8/6) Cristina L.; (8/7) David Z.; (8/8) Charles G.; (8/9) Natalia S.; (8/10) John A., Nick P. Upcoming Video Operators: (8/6) Cristina L.; (8/10+14) Natalia S.; (8/15) Norm A.; (8/17) Gray Y./David N. Fellowship Hosts: (8/10) Planning Committee; (8/17) Philoptochos/Panagiri; (8/24) Haris Sorovigas; (8/31) Georgia 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

*Κύριος ἰσχύον τῷ λαῷ αὐτοῦ δώσει,
Κύριος εὐλογήσει τὸν λαὸν αὐτοῦ ἐν
εἰρήνῃ.*

*Στίχ. Ἐνέγκατε τῷ Κυρίῳ, υἱοὶ Θεοῦ,
ἐνέγκατε τῷ Κυρίῳ δόξαν καὶ τιμὴν.*

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*Πρὸς Κορινθίους Α΄ Ἐπιστολῆς
Παύλου τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα.*

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Ἀδελφοί, παρακαλῶ ὑμᾶς διὰ τοῦ ὀνόματος τοῦ Κυρίου ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ, ἵνα τὸ αὐτὸ λέγητε πάντες, καὶ μὴ ἦ ἐν ὑμῖν σχίσματα, ἥτε δὲ κατηρτισμένοι ἐν τῷ αὐτῷ νοῖ καὶ ἐν τῇ αὐτῇ γνώμῃ. ἐδηλώθη γάρ μοι περὶ ὑμῶν, ἀδελφοί μου, ὑπὸ τῶν Χλόης ὅτι ἔριδες ἐν ὑμῖν εἰσι. λέγω δὲ τοῦτο, ὅτι ἕκαστος ὑμῶν λέγει· ἐγὼ μὲν εἰμι Παύλου, ἐγὼ δὲ Ἀπολλῶ, ἐγὼ δὲ Κηφᾶ, ἐγὼ δὲ Χριστοῦ. μεμέρισται ὁ Χριστός; μὴ Παῦλος ἐσταυρώθη ὑπὲρ ὑμῶν; ἢ εἰς τὸ ὄνομα Παύλου ἐβαπτίσθητε; εὐχαριστῶ τῷ Θεῷ ὅτι οὐδένα ὑμῶν ἐβάπτισα εἰ μὴ Κρίσπον καὶ Γάϊον, ἵνα μὴ τις εἴπῃ ὅτι εἰς τὸ ἐμὸν ὄνομα ἐβάπτισα. ἐβάπτισα δὲ καὶ τὸν Στεφανᾶ οἶκον· λοιπὸν οὐκ οἶδα εἴ τινα ἄλλον ἐβάπτισα. οὐ γὰρ ἀπέστειλέ με Χριστὸς βαπτίζειν, ἀλλ' εὐαγγελίζεσθαι, οὐκ ἐν σοφίᾳ λόγου, ἵνα μὴ κενωθῇ ὁ σταυρὸς τοῦ Χριστοῦ.

*The Lord will give strength to His
people; the Lord will bless His
people with peace.*

*Verse: Bring to the Lord, O you sons
of God, bring to the Lord glory and
honor.*

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*The reading is from Paul's First
Letter to the Corinthians. (1:10-17)*

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Brethren, I appeal to you by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree and that there be no dissensions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment. For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there is quarreling among you, my brethren. What I mean is that each one of you says, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ." Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius; lest any one should say that you were baptized in my name. (I did baptize also the household of Stephanas. Beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized any one else.) For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, lest the cross of Christ be emptied of its power.

The Holy Gospel Reading according to St. Matthew (14:14-22)

Eighth Sunday of Matthew

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, εἶδεν ὁ Ἰησοῦς πολὺν ὄχλον, καὶ ἐσπλαγχνίσθη ἐπ' αὐτοῖς καὶ ἐθεράπευσε τοὺς ἀρρώστους αὐτῶν. ὁψίας δὲ γενομένης προσῆλθον αὐτῷ οἱ μαθηταὶ αὐτοῦ λέγοντες· ἔρημός ἐστιν ὁ τόπος καὶ ἡ ὥρα ἤδη παρήλθεν· ἀπόλυσον τοὺς ὄχλους, ἵνα ἀπελθόντες εἰς τὰς κώμας ἀγοράσωσιν ἑαυτοῖς βρώματα. ὁ δὲ Ἰησοῦς εἶπεν αὐτοῖς· οὐ χρειάν ἔχουσιν ἀπελθεῖν· δότε αὐτοῖς ὑμεῖς φαγεῖν. οἱ δὲ λέγουσιν αὐτῷ· οὐκ ἔχομεν ὧδε εἰ μὴ πέντε ἄρτους καὶ δύο ἰχθύας. ὁ δὲ εἶπε· φέρετέ μοι αὐτοὺς ὧδε. καὶ κελεύσας τοὺς ὄχλους ἀνακλιθῆναι ἐπὶ τοὺς χόρτους, λαβὼν τοὺς πέντε ἄρτους καὶ τοὺς δύο ἰχθύας, ἀναβλέψας εἰς τὸν οὐρανὸν εὐλόγησε, καὶ κλάσας ἔδωκε τοῖς μαθηταῖς τοὺς ἄρτους, οἱ δὲ μαθηταὶ τοῖς ὄχλοις. καὶ ἔφαγον πάντες καὶ ἐχορτάσθησαν, καὶ ἦραν τὸ περισσεῦον τῶν κλασμάτων δώδεκα κοφίνους πλήρεις. οἱ δὲ ἐσθίοντες ἦσαν ἄνδρες ὥσει πεντακισχίλιοι χωρὶς γυναικῶν καὶ παιδίων. Καὶ εὐθέως ἠνάγκασεν ὁ Ἰησοῦς τοὺς μαθητὰς αὐτοῦ ἐμβῆναι εἰς τὸ πλοῖον καὶ προάγειν αὐτὸν εἰς τὸ πέραν, ἕως οὗ ἀπολύσῃ τοὺς ὄχλους.

At that time, Jesus saw a great throng; and he had compassion on them, and healed their sick. When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a lonely place, and the day is now over; send the crowds away to go into the villages and buy food for themselves." Jesus said, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." They said to him, "We have only five loaves here and two fish." And he said, "Bring them here to me." Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass; and taking the five loaves and the two fish he looked up to heaven, and blessed, and broke and gave the loaves to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And they all ate and were satisfied. And they took up twelve baskets full of the broken pieces left over. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children. Then he made the disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds.

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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 August 3, 2025

Ushers on Duty: Cleo Bennette, Sarah Drakopoulos, Nick Poulos

Video: Joanna Patronis

Altar Servers: All Adult/Youth Servers

Epistle Readers: Haris Sorovigas (Greek); Caroline Saratsiotis (English)

Fellowship Host (Thank You!): Ehmer Family

PC Member On-Duty: Gray Yates



Today our Holy Orthodox Church commemorates:

- + Our Devout Fathers Dalmatus (Δαμάτιος), Faustus (Φαύστος), and Isaakius (Ισαάκιος) (+5th Century)
- + The Holy Martyr Stephan (Στέφανος), Pope of Rome (+257)
- + Our Devout Father John (Ιωάννης) the Confessor, Abbot of the Monastery of Pataria (+8th/9th Century)
- + The Devout Salome (Σαλώμη) the Myrrh-bearer (+1st Century)

Saint Salome (Salômē) was the first cousin of the Virgin Mary, the mother of our Lord Jesus Christ. She was the wife of Zebedee and the mother of James (April 30) and John (September 26). She was one of the women who followed Christ and ministered to Him from their own means, even until His Crucifixion and Burial. On the third day they went to the tomb to anoint His body, they did not lose their faith in Him, nor did they fear the Jewish rulers. It was Salome who asked the Lord to let her two sons sit, one at His right hand, and one at His left (Matthew 20:20-21), for she thought that Jesus was about to restore the throne of David at Jerusalem. During the Lord's Passion, when His disciples and friends hid themselves from fear, Salome and the other faithful women remained by the Cross, beating their breasts in sorrow (Matthew 27:55-56; Mark 15:40; Mark 16:1-8). Salome was also one of the Myrrh bearing women to whom the Angel revealed Christ's Resurrection. After the Descent of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost, Salômē continued to distinguish herself by her zeal and her almsgiving. The persecution of the Jerusalem Church caused Salome great sorrow. Her final heartbreak was when Herod beheaded her eldest son James (Acts 12:2). But Christ strengthened her, and in the hope of resurrection to everlasting life, she surrendered her soul in peace.

- + The Devout Theoclitus (Θεοκλητός) the Wonderworker (+842)
- + The Holy Martyr Olympios (Ολύμπιος) the Prefect, Byzantine noble martyred under the Persian King Chosroes II for confessing Orthodoxy (+610)

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 (Κατέλυσας τῷ Σταυρῷ σου, Grave Mode):

You destroyed death by Your Cross, You opened Paradise to the Robber. You turned the Myrrh-bearing Women's lament into joy, and You commanded Your Apostles to preach that You rose, O Christ God, granting the world the great mercy. (Sung before and after the Small Entrance, Greek text in hymnal on pg. 122)

- 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 the Transfiguration of Christ (Ἐπὶ τοῦ ὄρους, Grave Mode):

Upon the mountain were You transfigured, and Your disciples beheld Your glory as far as they were able, O Christ our God; so that when they would see You crucified they might understand that Your Passion was deliberate, and declare to the world that in truth You are the Father's radiance. (Greek text in hymnal on pg. 284)

Guidance, Prayer Requests, and Announcements

This Week's Daily

Scripture Readings and Fasting Guidance:

Sunday, August 3—Wine+Oil:

John 20:11-18; I Corinthians 1:10-17; Matthew 14:14-22

Monday, August 4—Strict Fast:

I Corinthians 11:31-34, 12:1-6; Matthew 18:1-11

Tuesday, August 5—Strict Fast:

I Peter 1:12-5, 2:1-10; Matthew 18:18-22, 19:1-2, 13-15

Wednesday, August 6: Transfiguration of our Lord—Fish, Wine, Oil:

Luke 9:28-36; II Peter 1:10-19; Matthew 17:1-9

Thursday, August 7—Strict Fast:

I Corinthians 14:6-19; Mark 9:2-9

Friday, August 8—Strict Fast:

I Corinthians 14:26-40; Matthew 21:12-14, 17-20

Saturday, August 9—Wine+Oil:

Acts 1:12-17, 21-26; Matthew 15:32-39

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

Prayers for those recently reposed:

Samuel (+June 26), Ray (+July 7), Lee Pavlos (+July 9),

Bill (+July 13), Irene (+July 26)

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. Ephraim the Syrian on the Feast of the Transfiguration: "The Prophets and the Apostles gathered on the mount were filled with joy; the Prophets rejoiced for they have beheld here His humanity which they did not see before; the Apostles rejoiced for they beheld here the glory of His Divinity which before they had not understood. They stood before the Lord as ministers, and looked at one another, Prophets at Apostles and Apostles at Prophets. There they mutually extended to themselves the sights of the prototypes of the Old and New Covenants. Thus, the mount represents the Church itself because Jesus united in it the two covenants accepted by the Church and has shown that He is the Giver of both."

Upcoming Celebrations This Week

Name Days—Chronia Polla, Many Years!

None in the Records

Birthdays—Happy Birthday!

August 3: Georgia Saratsiotis

August 4: Dimitris Karras

August 5: Pamela Poulos

August 7: James Scarborough

August 8: Joachim Ehmer

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:

* There will be a "backpack blessing" at the end of the Divine Liturgy today blessing our students and teachers who have/will be heading back to school. May God bless their work and their studies!

* The next **Introduction to the Orthodox Church** class will take place Saturday, August 9 at 3:45pm in the Church Library/on Zoom. The topic will be the Holy Sacraments/Mysteries. 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 this Thursday, August 7 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. There are copies of the book available in our Holy Cross Bookstore. Please plan on joining on Thursday mornings!

* **FESTIVAL NEWS (OCTOBER 24-26): 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). This year, we are going with Gilden Softstyle shirts. **Sponsorship Opportunities** have begun! We would love for everyone to find a new business to go in the program book. 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. Contact Natalia if you have any questions. Use the QR Code to be directed to our Festival Page where you can find links to the Festival Apparel and Sponsorship Opportunities. **Spanakopita Preparation** will be on August 16.

* **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.** The services will start earlier this day (8:15a Orthros, 9:30a Liturgy) to allow time for his presentation!

* The Philoptochos is hosting the annual **Panagiri (festal celebration)**, on Sunday, August 17th, to celebrate the Dormition of the Theotokos. Please see the flyer that was sent by email and join us in the celebration!

