



HOLY CROSS

GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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

Sunday, September 28, 2025

First Sunday of Luke

St. Chariton the Confessor

Eothinon/Orthros Gospel: Fifth (Luke 24:12-35)

Mode of the Week: Grave / Βαβϋς

QR Codes (scan with smart phone for service texts)

Orthros, part 1



Orthros, part 2



Divine Liturgy



Upcoming Schedule

Today, September 28

9:15am Orthros
10:30am Divine Liturgy on the 1st Sunday of Luke
Sunday School for the Youth after Holy Communion
Epistle Reader Meeting after the Divine Liturgy
Coffee Fellowship in the Parish House after the Liturgy
12:15pm Philoptochos Meeting in the Parish House
12:45pm Bible Study

Tuesday, September 30

Wednesday, October 1

Thursday, October 2

Sunday, October 5

6:45pm Parish Council Meeting
5:30pm Vespers
6:30pm Introduction to the Orthodox Church Class in person and on Zoom

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

9:15am Orthros
10:30am Divine Liturgy on the 2nd Sunday of Luke
Sunday School for the Youth after Holy Communion
Coffee Fellowship in the Parish House after the Liturgy
1:00pm Youth Greek Dance

Mon-Thurs, October 6-9

Saturday, October 11

Father Theodore at National Clergy Retreat
9:00am Pastry Prep for Festival
4:00pm Byzantine Chant Class
5:00pm Great Vespers
6:00pm Men's Brotherhood Fellowship (at the Ehmer's House)

Sunday, October 12

9:15am Orthros
10:30am Divine Liturgy on the Sunday of the 7th Ecumenical Council
Sunday School for the Youth after Holy Communion
Coffee Fellowship in the Parish House after the Liturgy
12:45pm Bible Study/Youth Greek Dance

Tuesday, October 14

Wednesday, October 15

Friday, October 17

Saturday, October 18

7:00pm Parish Council Meeting
5:30pm Vespers honoring St. Longinos
6:30pm Introduction to the Orthodox Church Class in person and on Zoom

4:30pm Great Vespers honoring St. Luke the Evangelist

9:00am Pastry Prep for the Festival
4:00pm Byzantine Chant Class in the Library
5:00pm Great Vespers

Sunday, October 19

9:15am Orthros
10:30am Divine Liturgy on the 3rd Sunday of Luke (Sun. School for Youth)
Coffee Fellowship and Youth Greek Dance after the Liturgy

Upcoming Epistle Readers: (10/5) Chad Ridley, Carter Zoumberis; (10/12) Helen Troupos, Beth Zoumberis

Upcoming PC Member On-Duty: (10/5) Chad Ridley; (10/12) John Apostolou; (10/19) Maria Spicer; (10/26) Sarah D

Upcoming Ushers: (10/1) Charles G; (10/5) Sarah D, Maria S; (10/11) OPEN; (10/12) John A, Sarah D; (10/15) Charles

Upcoming Video Operators: (10/5) Joanna P.; (10/12) Cristina L.; (10/17+10/26) David N.; (10/19) David Z.

Fellowship Hosts: (10/5) Robert Ice; (10/12) Helen Vardy; (10/19) Kathy Patras; (10/26) Festival; (11/2) Haris 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 ἰσχύν 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 Β΄ Ἐπιστολῆς
Παύλου τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα.

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Ἀδελφοί, συνεργοῦντες παρακαλοῦμεν
μὴ εἰς κενὸν τὴν χάριν τοῦ Θεοῦ
δέξασθαι ὑμᾶς — λέγει γάρ· καιρῷ δεκτῷ
ἐπήκουσά σου καὶ ἐν ἡμέρᾳ σωτηρίας
ἐβοήθησά σοι· ἰδοὺ νῦν καιρὸς
εὐπρόσδεκτος, ἰδοὺ νῦν ἡμέρα σωτηρίας
— μηδεμίαν ἐν μηδενὶ διδόντες
προσκοπὴν, ἵνα μὴ μωμηθῇ ἡ διακονία,
ἀλλ’ ἐν παντὶ συνιστῶντες ἑαυτοὺς ὡς
Θεοῦ διάκονοι, ἐν ὑπομονῇ πολλῇ, ἐν
θλίψεσιν, ἐν ἀνάγκαις, ἐν στενοχωρίαις,
ἐν πληγαῖς, ἐν φυλακαῖς, ἐν
ἀκαταστασίαις, ἐν κόποις, ἐν ἀγρυπνίαις,
ἐν νηστείαις, ἐν ἀγνότητι, ἐν γνώσει, ἐν
μακροθυμίᾳ, ἐν χρηστότητι, ἐν Πνεύματι
Ἀγίῳ, ἐν ἀγάπῃ ἀνυποκρίτῳ, ἐν λόγῳ
ἀληθείας, ἐν δυνάμει Θεοῦ, διὰ τῶν
ὀπλῶν τῆς δικαιοσύνης τῶν δεξιῶν καὶ
ἀριστερῶν, διὰ δόξης καὶ ἀτιμίας, διὰ
δυσφημίας καὶ εὐφημίας, ὡς πλάνοι καὶ
ἀληθεῖς, ὡς ἀγνοοῦμενοι καὶ
ἐπιγινωσκόμενοι, ὡς ἀποθνήσκοντες καὶ
ἰδοὺ ζῶμεν, ὡς παιδευόμενοι καὶ μὴ
θανατούμενοι, ὡς λυπούμενοι ἀεὶ δὲ
χαίροντες, ὡς πτωχοὶ πολλοὺς δὲ
πλουτίζοντες, ὡς μηδὲν ἔχοντες καὶ
πάντα κατέχοντες.

*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 Second
Letter to the Corinthians. (6-1:10)*

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Brethren, working together with him,
we entreat you not to accept the grace
of God in vain. For he says, “At the
acceptable time I have listened to you,
and helped you on the day of salvation.”
Behold, now is the acceptable time;
behold, now is the day of salvation. We
put no obstacle in any one’s way, so that
no fault may be found with our
ministry, but as servants of God we
commend ourselves in every way:
through great endurance, in afflictions,
hardships, calamities, beatings,
imprisonments, tumults, labors,
watching, hunger; by purity,
knowledge, forbearance, kindness, the
Holy Spirit, genuine love, truthful
speech, and the power of God; with the
weapons of righteousness for the right
hand and for the left; in honor and
dishonor, in ill repute and good repute.
We are treated as impostors, and yet
are true; as unknown, and yet well
known; as dying, and behold we live; as
punished, and yet not killed; as
sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor,
yet making many rich; as having
nothing, and yet possessing everything.

The Holy Gospel Reading according to St. Luke (5:1-11)

First Sunday of Luke

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, ἐστὼς ὁ Ἰησοῦς
παρὰ τὴν λίμνην Γεννησαρέτ, εἶδε δύο
πλοῖα ἐστῶτα παρὰ τὴν λίμνην· οἱ δὲ
ἀλιεῖς ἀποβάντες ἀπ’ αὐτῶν ἀπέπλυναν
τὰ δίκτυα. ἐμβὰς δὲ εἰς ἓν τῶν πλοίων,
ὃ ἦν τοῦ Σίμωνος, ἠρώτησεν αὐτὸν
ἀπὸ τῆς γῆς ἐπαναγαγεῖν ὀλίγον· καὶ
καθίσας ἐδίδασκεν ἐκ τοῦ πλοίου τοὺς
ὄχλους. ὥς δὲ ἐπαύσατο λαλῶν, εἶπε
πρὸς τὸν Σίμονα· ἐπανάγαγε εἰς τὸ
βάθος καὶ χαλάσατε τὰ δίκτυα ὑμῶν εἰς
ἄγραν. καὶ ἀποκριθεὶς ὁ Σίμων εἶπεν
αὐτῷ· ἐπιστάτα, δι’ ὅλης τῆς νυκτὸς
κοπιάσαντες οὐδὲν ἐλάβομεν· ἐπὶ δὲ
τῷ ῥήματί σου χαλάσω τὸ δίκτυον. καὶ
τοῦτο ποιήσαντες συνέκλεισαν πλῆθος
ἰχθύων πολὺ· διερρήγνυτο δὲ τὸ
δίκτυον αὐτῶν. καὶ κατένευσαν τοῖς
μετόχοις τοῖς ἐν τῷ ἐτέρῳ πλοίῳ τοῦ
ἐλθόντας συλλαβέσθαι αὐτοῖς· καὶ
ἦλθον καὶ ἔπλησαν ἀμφοτέρω τὰ
πλοῖα, ὥστε βυθίζεσθαι αὐτά. ἰδὼν δὲ
Σίμων Πέτρος προσέπεσε τοῖς γόνασιν
Ἰησοῦ λέγων· ἔξελθε ἀπ’ ἐμοῦ, ὅτι
ἀνὴρ ἁμαρτωλός εἰμι, Κύριε· θάμβος
γὰρ περιέσχεν αὐτὸν καὶ πάντα τοὺς
σὺν αὐτῷ ἐπὶ τῇ ἄγρα τῶν ἰχθύων ἡ
συνέλαβον, ὁμοίως δὲ καὶ Ἰάκωβον καὶ
Ἰωάννην, υἱοὺς Ζεβεδαίου, οἳ ἦσαν
κοινωνοὶ τῷ Σίμωνι. καὶ εἶπε πρὸς τὸν
Σίμονα ὁ Ἰησοῦς· μὴ φοβοῦ· ἀπὸ τοῦ
νῦν ἀνθρώπους ἔσῃ ζωγρῶν. καὶ
καταγαγόντες τὰ πλοῖα ἐπὶ τὴν γῆν,
ἀφέντες ἅπαντα ἠκολούθησαν αὐτῷ.

At that time, while Jesus was
standing by the lake of Gennesaret,
he saw two boats by the lake; but the
fishermen had gone out of them and
were washing their nets. Getting into
one of the boats, which was Simon’s,
he asked him to put out a little from
the land. And he sat down and taught
the people from the boat. And when
he had ceased speaking, he said to
Simon, “Put out into the deep and let
down your nets for a catch.” And
Simon answered, “Master, we toiled
all night and took nothing! But at
your word I will let down the nets.”
And when they had done this, they
enclosed a great shoal of fish; and as
their nets were breaking, they
beckoned to their partners in the
other boat to come and help them.
And they came and filled both the
boats, so that they began to sink. But
when Simon Peter saw it, he fell
down at Jesus’ knees, saying, “Depart
from me, for I am a sinful man, O
Lord.” For he was astonished, and all
who were with him, at the catch of
fish which they had taken; and so
also were James and John, sons of
Zebedee, who were partners with
Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, “Do
not be afraid; henceforth you will be
catching men.” And when they had
brought their boats to land, they left
everything and followed him.

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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 September 28, 2025

Ushers on Duty: Nic and Pam Poulos, Haris Sorovigas

Video: Natalia S.

Altar Servers: All Adult/Youth Servers

Epistle Readers: George Saratsiotis (Greek); Charles Glotzbach (Eng.)

Fellowship Host (Thank You!): Men's Brotherhood

PC Member On-Duty: Gray Yates



Today our Holy Orthodox Church commemorates:

- + Our Devout Father Chariton (Χαρίτων) the Confessor (+350)

Saint Chariton was born in the city of Iconium during the reign of Aurelian, about the year 274. He was arrested, tortured, and condemned to death because of his Christian Faith, but finally set free by imperial edict. He came to Palestine, where he took up the ascetic life. He also brought many Jews and pagans to the Faith. Having dwelt in the desert of Judea for many years, and established several monasteries throughout the region, he reposed in peace.

- + The Holy Prophet Baruch (Βαρουχ) (+6th Century BC)

The Prophet Baruch was the son of Nerias, and the disciple of the Prophet Jeremias (Jer. 39:12; 43:4 LXX). The extant prophetic book that he wrote is divided into five chapters; it was composed in the fifth year of the Babylonian Captivity of the Jews during the years of Sedekias, 583 B.C. The prophetic lection that is read on the eve of the Feast of Christ's Nativity, which bears Jeremias' name, is taken from the prophecy of Baruch (Bar. 3:35-4:4). His name means "blessed."

- + The Holy Martyrs and Brothers Alexander (Ἀλέξανδρος), Alfeus (Ἀλφειός), and Zosimos (Ζώσιμος); the Holy Martyr Mark (Μάρκος) the Shepherd; the Holy Martyrs Nikon (Νίκων), Neo (Νέων), Heliodoros (Ἡλιόδωρος), and the other virgins and children (+4th Century)

- + The Holy Martyr Eustathios (Ευστάθιος) the Roman

- + The Holy Martyr Alexander (Ἀλέξανδρος) and the 30 others martyrs with him

- + The Holy Martyr Wenceslas (Βιαισεσλάβος) I of Bohemia, Prince of the Czechs (+935)

- + The Venerable Auxentius (Αυξέντιος) the Alaman, ascetic and wonderworker of Cyprus (+12th Century)

- + Our Devout Father Exuperius, Bishop and Confessor of Toulouse (+411)

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 τὸ Σταυρῶ 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 found in hymnal on pg. 122*)

- *Hymn of St. Chariton (Ταῖς τῶν δακρῦνών σου, Plagal Fourth Mode):*

With the rivers of your tears you made the barren desert bloom; and with your sighs from deep within, you made your labors bear their fruits a hundredfold; and you became a star, illuminating the world by your miracles, O Chariton our devout father. Intercede with Christ our God, for the salvation of our souls.

- *Hymn of the Holy Cross (Σῶσον 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. (*Greek text found on the back of the bulletin*).

- *The Normal Kontakion of the Theotokos (Προστασία τῶν Χριστιανόν, Second 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 found in Hymnal on pg. 225*)

Guidance, Prayer Requests, and Announcements

This Week's Daily Commemorations, Fasting Guidance and Scripture Readings: Sunday, September 28: St. Chariton the Confessor

No Fasting

Luke 24:12-35; II Corinthians 6:1-10; Luke 5:1-11

Monday, September 29: St. Kyriakos the Hermit

No Fasting

Galatians 5:22-26, 6:1-2; Luke 4:38-44

Tuesday, September 30: St. Gregory of Armenia

No Fasting

I Corinthians 16:13-24; Matthew 24:42-47

Wednesday, October 1: St. Romanos the Melodist

Wine+Oil

Acts 9:10-19; Luke 5:33-39

Thursday, October 2: Sts. Cyprian and Justina

No Fasting

I Timothy 1:12-17; Luke 6:12-19

Friday, October 3: St. Dionysios the Areopagite

Strict Fast

Acts 17:16-34; Luke 6:17-23

Saturday, October 4: St. Hierotheos of Athens

No Fasting

I Corinthians 14:20-25; Luke 5:17-26

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, Benjamin, Brenda, George, Gabriel, Bradaen

Prayers for those recently reposed:

Charles (+August 23), Clark (+September 4),
Tammy (+September 22)

Prayers for expecting mothers:

Amanda, Antigone, Betty, Kalie

Prayers for Military Personnel and Their Families:

Benjamin George Davis, Joseph Fajloun, Kyle Glotzbach, Robert Ice, Aleksander Zajac

Prayers for our Catechumens and Inquirers into the Orthodox Church:

Alexander, Bobbie, Cherish, 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:

Saint Gregory of Nyssa on the remedy to so many of the difficulties of life: "Let us first consider what peace is. Surely it is nothing else but a loving disposition towards one's neighbor. But what is held to be the opposite of love? It is hate and wrath, anger and envy, harboring resentment as well as hypocrisy and the calamity of war. Do you see for how many different diseases this single word is an antidote? For peace is equally opposed to every one of the things mentioned, and wipes out these evils by

its own presence. Just as illness vanishes when health supervenes, and as no darkness is left when light begins to shine, so also when peace appears, all the passions connected with its opposite are eliminated."

Upcoming Celebrations This Week

Name Days—Chronia Polla, Many Years!

None in the Records

Birthdays—Happy Birthday!

September 28: Luke Zoumberis

September 29: Father Theodore Ehmer, Thomas Sotirious Roden

October 2: Daniel Filimon

October 3: Vivi Iakovidis, James Morris, George Saratsiotis,

Mandi Saratsiotis

October 4: Mike Cantrell

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 general meeting for the **Philoptochos** (Ladies Philanthropic Group) in the Parish House today after the Divine Liturgy. Please plan on attending if you are in Philoptochos or would like to be a part of this very important ministry of our Church!

* The next **Introduction to the Orthodox Church** class will take place **Wednesday, October 1 at 6:30pm in person and on Zoom**. The topic will be a summary of the introduction book and a question and answer session. 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, October 2 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. This will be the final meeting of the Book Study until we begin once again after the Festival!

* **FESTIVAL INFO (OCTOBER 24-26):** Have you taken off for Friday, October 24th yet? We still have lots of Raffle Tickets that families have not taken. Please see Natalia to get your tickets. **Flyers** have been emailed and also available in the Bookstore and Parish House. Please take these to businesses around town and help spread the word! **Pastry Prep** will be on October 11th and 18th. Know of someone who needs **Volunteer Hours**? Scan the QR Code and share it with your friends. The volunteer link is for non-parishioners who would like to volunteer. **NOTE:** We always struggle for volunteers on Friday. **Yard Signs** are available for \$10. If you would like one, please let Natalia know. These can be used each year. On the **Sunday before the Festival (Oct. 19th)**, The Men's Brotherhood will be putting yard signs around town. Please get with Felix if you are available to help out!

* The **Altar Server Workshop/Meeting** that was to take place a couple of weeks ago is going to be rescheduled. If you assist in the Holy Altar, please keep an eye out for the new date!

* There will be an **Epistle Reader Meeting** taking place immediately after the Divine Liturgy TODAY. If you are an Epistle Reader (or would like to be), ALL need to stay for this short and important meeting.

