



# 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, September 7, 2025

Sunday before the Elevation of the Cross

St. Kassiani the Hymnographer

Eothinon/Orthros Gospel: Second (Mark 16:1-8)

Mode of the Week: Fourth / Τέταρτος

QR Codes (scan with smart phone for service texts)

Orthros, part 1



Orthros, part 2



Divine Liturgy



### Upcoming Schedule

*Today, 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  
6:30pm Great Vespers for the Nativity of the Theotokos

*Monday, September 8*

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

*Tuesday, September 9*

5:00pm Divine Liturgy for the Synaxis of Saints Joachim and Anna

*Wednesday, September 10*

5:30pm Vespers  
6:30pm Cross Dive Meeting

*Thursday, September 11*

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

*Saturday, September 13*

12:00pm Great Vespers for the Elevation of the Holy Cross (at the church)  
2:00pm 4th Annual Pan-Orthodox Cross Dive (Sandy Beach, Lake Tobo)

*Sunday, September 14*

9:15am Orthros  
10:30am Divine Liturgy on the Elevation of the Holy Cross  
Our Parish's Name Day  
Procession of the Cross at the end of the Liturgy  
Coffee Fellowship in the Parish House after the Liturgy  
12:45pm Bible Study

*Saturday, September 20*

8:00am Dolmades Prep for the Festival (in the Parish House)  
4:00pm Byzantine Chant Class  
5:00pm Great Vespers

*Sunday, September 21*

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

*Wednesday, September 24*

3:00pm Red Cross Blood Drive (in the Parish House, until 7:00pm)  
5:30pm Vespers  
6:30pm Introduction to the Orthodox Church Class in person and on Zoom

*Thursday, September 25*

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

**Upcoming Epistle Readers:** (9/14) Aleca Hortman, Mike Cantrell; (9/21) George Saratsiotis, Isabelle Saratsiotis  
**Upcoming PC Member On-Duty:** (9/14) Chad Ridley (9/21) Natalia Saratsiotis (9/28) Gray Yates; (10/5) Chad R.  
**Upcoming Ushers:** (9/7p) Sarah D; (9/8) OPEN, (9/9) Nic P.; (9/10+9/13) Maria S.; (9/14 ) Cleo B., Jim L.  
**Upcoming Video Operators:** (9/8+9/26) OPEN (9/14) Cristina; (9/21) David Z; (9/28) Natalia S.; (10/5) Joanna P.  
**Fellowship Hosts:** (9/14) Parish Council; (9/21) Mandi Saratsiotis; (9/28) Mens Brotherhood; (10/5) Robert Ice

### 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

Σῶσον, Κύριε, τὸν λαόν σου καὶ  
εὐλόγησον τὴν κληρονομίαν σου.  
Στίχ. Πρὸς σέ, Κύριε, κεκράζομαι, ὁ  
Θεός μου.

+++

Πρὸς Γαλάτας Ἐπιστολῆς Παύλου τὸ  
ἀνάγνωσμα.

+++

Ἀδελφοί, ἴδετε πηλίκους ὑμῖν  
γράμμασιν ἔγραψα τῇ ἐμῇ χειρί. ὅσοι  
θέλουσιν εὐπροσωπῆσαι ἐν σαρκί,  
οὗτοι ἀναγκάζουσιν ὑμᾶς  
περιτέμνεσθαι, μόνον ἵνα μὴ τῷ  
σταυρῷ τοῦ Χριστοῦ διώκωνται. οὐδὲ  
γὰρ οἱ περιτετμημένοι αὐτοὶ νόμον  
φυλάσσουσιν, ἀλλὰ θέλουσιν ὑμᾶς  
περιτέμνεσθαι, ἵνα ἐν τῇ ὑμετέρα  
σαρκὶ καυχῶνται. ἐμοὶ δὲ μὴ  
γένοιτο καυχᾶσθαι εἰ μὴ ἐν τῷ  
σταυρῷ τοῦ Κυρίου ἡμῶν Ἰησοῦ  
Χριστοῦ, δι' οὗ ἐμοὶ κόσμος  
ἐσταύρωται καὶ γὰρ τῷ κόσμῳ. ἐν γὰρ  
Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ οὔτε περιτομὴ τι ἰσχύει  
οὔτε ἀκροβυστία, ἀλλὰ καινὴ κτίσις.  
καὶ ὅσοι τῷ κανόνι τούτῳ  
στοιχήσουσιν, εἰρήνη ἐπ' αὐτοὺς καὶ  
ἔλεος, καὶ ἐπὶ τὸν Ἰσραὴλ τοῦ Θεοῦ.  
Τοῦ λοιποῦ κόπους μοι μηδεὶς  
παρεχέτω· ἐγὼ γὰρ τὰ στίγματα τοῦ  
Κυρίου Ἰησοῦ ἐν τῷ σώματί μου  
βαστάζω. Ἡ χάρις τοῦ Κυρίου ἡμῶν  
Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ μετὰ τοῦ πνεύματος  
ὑμῶν, ἀδελφοί· ἀμήν.

O Lord, save Your people, and  
bless Your inheritance.  
Verse: To You, O Lord, I cry; O  
my God.

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The reading is from Paul's Letter  
to the Galatians. (6:11-18)

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Brethren, see with what large  
letters I am writing to you with my  
own hand. It is those who want to  
make a good showing in the flesh  
that would compel you to be  
circumcised, and only in order that  
they may not be persecuted for the  
cross of Christ. For even those who  
receive circumcision do not  
themselves keep the law, but they  
desire to have you circumcised that  
they may glory in your flesh. But  
far be it from me to glory except in  
the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
by which the world has been  
crucified to me, and I to the world.  
For in Christ Jesus neither  
circumcision counts for anything,  
nor uncircumcision, but a new  
creation. Peace and mercy be upon  
all who walk by this rule, upon the  
Israel of God. Henceforth let no  
man trouble me; for I bear on my  
body the marks of Jesus. The grace  
of our Lord Jesus Christ be with  
your spirit, brethren. Amen.

## The Holy Gospel Reading according to St. John (3:13-17)

Sunday before the Cross

Εἶπεν ὁ Κύριος· οὐδεὶς  
ἀναβέβηκεν εἰς τὸν  
οὐρανὸν εἰ μὴ ὁ ἐκ τοῦ  
οὐρανοῦ καταβάς, ὁ υἱὸς  
τοῦ ἀνθρώπου ὁ ὢν ἐν τῷ  
οὐρανῷ. καὶ καθὼς  
Μωϋσῆς ὕψωσε τὸν ὄφιν  
ἐν τῇ ἐρήμῳ, οὕτως  
ὑψωθῆναι δεῖ τὸν υἱὸν τοῦ  
ἀνθρώπου, ἵνα πᾶς ὁ  
πιστεύων εἰς αὐτὸν μὴ  
ἀπόληται, ἀλλ' ἔχῃ ζωὴν  
αἰώνιον. οὕτω γὰρ  
ἠγάπησεν ὁ Θεὸς τὸν  
κόσμον, ὥστε τὸν υἱὸν  
αὐτοῦ τὸν μονογενῆ  
ἔδωκεν, ἵνα πᾶς ὁ πιστεύων  
εἰς αὐτὸν μὴ ἀπόληται,  
ἀλλ' ἔχῃ ζωὴν αἰώνιον. οὐ  
γὰρ ἀπέστειλεν ὁ Θεὸς τὸν  
υἱὸν αὐτοῦ εἰς τὸν κόσμον  
ἵνα κρίνῃ τὸν κόσμον, ἀλλ'  
ἵνα σωθῇ ὁ κόσμος δι'  
αὐτοῦ.

The Lord said, "No one  
has ascended into  
heaven but he who  
descended from heaven,  
the Son of man who is in  
heaven. And as Moses  
lifted up the serpent in  
the wilderness, so must  
the Son of man be lifted  
up, that whoever  
believes in him should  
not perish but have  
eternal life. For God so  
loved the world that he  
gave his only-begotten  
Son, that whoever  
believes in him should  
not perish but have  
eternal life. For God sent  
the Son into the world,  
not to condemn the  
world, but that the  
world might be saved  
through 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 7, 2025

**Ushers on Duty:** Sarah Drakopoulos, Haris Sorovigas

**Video:** Joanna P.

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

**Epistle Readers:** Pete Tsamolias (Greek); Rene Esquivel (English)

**Fellowship Host (Thank You!):** Denna B., Chrissy H., Donna S.

**PC Member On-Duty:** Sarah Drakopoulos



### Today our Holy Orthodox Church commemorates:

- + Forefeast of the Nativity of the Theotokos (Προεόρτια της Γέννησις της Θεοτόκου)

We celebrate the first Great Feast of the new Ecclesiastical Year, the Nativity of the Theotokos, tomorrow, Monday, September 8.

- + The Devout Kassiani (Κασσιανή) the Hymnographer (+865)

Saint Kassiani is one of the three holy hymnographers that are depicted on the back wall of the Church in the iconography behind the choir (along with Saints Romanos the Melodist and John of Damascus.) She lived in the 9<sup>th</sup> century in Constantinople and is one of the great hymnographers of our Church. Her most famous work is the “Hymn of Kassiani” which is chanted on Holy Tuesday evening.

- + The Holy Martyr Sozon (Σώζων)(+304)

This holy Martyr was a shepherd in Lycaonia. Born a pagan, named Tarasius, he received holy Baptism and was renamed Sozon. Filled with zeal for the truth, he taught his countrymen to desist from the worship of idols. Once he entered the temple of Artemis in Pompeiopolis of Cilicia, cut off the golden hand of the idol, and breaking it in pieces, distributed it among the poor. When he saw that many were being unjustly punished for the theft, of his own accord he gave himself up to Maximian the Governor. He was beaten with rods until his bones were broken. According to some, he suffered martyrdom in 288; according to others, in 304.

- + The Holy Apostles Evodos (Εὐδοος) and Onisiphoros (Ονήσιφορος)(+66)

- + The Holy Martyr Efpsichios (Ευψύχιος)of Cappadocia (+130)

- + Our Devout Father Luke (Λουκάς), abbot of the Monastery of the Savior/Deep Stream (+975)

- + Our Venerable Father Daniel (Δανιήλ) of Katounakia (+1929)

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 (Το φαῖδρόν, Fourth Mode):

When the women disciples of the Lord heard the Angel joyously proclaim the resurrection, they cast aside the ancestral verdict, and boasting in glory they said to the Apostles, “Death has been despoiled! Christ God has risen, granting the great mercy to the world!” (Sung before and after the Small Entrance, Greek text found in hymnal on pg. 110)

- Hymn of the Forefeast (Εκ της πίξης Ιεσοῦ, Fourth Mode):

Unto us is born today Mary the child of God, as the branch from Jesse’s root, and as the fruit of David’s loins, and all creation is re-created and deified. O heaven and the earth, rejoice in unison. Sing praises unto her, O all you Gentile clans. Joachim is exultant, and Anna is keeping festival, crying out: “The barren woman bears the Theotokos, the nourisher of our Life.”

- Hymn of St. Kassiani (Plagal First Mode):

You were wise to refuse the proposal of the king, \* for your heart was aflame with the love of the Lord \* And we, the faithful, now in song \* extol your virtue and your skill, \* for God inspired you to write \* sacred poems for the Church, \* Kassiani, most exalted. \* And we ask you to petition that we \* be made worthy of the kingdom of God.

- Kontakion of the Memorial Service (Μνήσθητι, Κύριε, Plagal 4<sup>th</sup> Mode):

Remember, O Lord, as You are good, Your servant, and forgive every sin she 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 Forefeast (Η Παρθένος σήμερον και Θεοτόκος Μαρία, Third Mode):

On this day the virgin Maid, Mary the true Theotokos, the inviolate bridal room of the heavenly Bridegroom, by the will of God is born of a barren woman, to prepare to be the carriage of God the Logos, as for this she had been destined, to be the gateway of God and Mother of Life.

## Guidance, Prayer Requests, and Announcements

**This Week’s Daily**  
**Scripture Readings and Fasting Guidance:**  
**Sunday, September 7: Forefeast of the Nativity of the Theotokos—No Fasting:**

Mark 16:1-8; Galatians 6:11-18; John 3:13-17

**Monday, September 8: Nativity of the Theotokos—No Fasting:**

Luke 1:39-49, 56; Philippians 2:5-11; Luke 10:38-42, 11:27-28  
**Tuesday, September 9: Synaxis of Saints Joachim and Anna—No Fasting:**

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

**Wednesday, September 10:** Sts. Menodora, Metrodora, and Nymphodora the Martyrs—*Strict Fast:*  
II Corinthians 13:3-13; John 3:16-21

**Thursday, September 11:** St. Theodora of Alexandria—*No Fasting:*

Galatians 1:1-3, 20-24, 2:1-5; John 12:19-36

**Friday, September 12:** Leave-taking of the Nativity of the Theotokos—*Strict Fast:*

Galatians 2:6-10; John 11:47-54

**Saturday, September 13:** Forefeast of the Cross—*No Fasting:*  
I Corinthians 2:6-9; Matthew 16:13-19

### **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

### **Prayers for those recently reposed:**

Irene (+July 26), Rick (+July 31), Charles (+August 23),  
Clarke (+September 4)

### **Prayers for expecting mothers:**

Antigone, Betty, Julieta (baby Sebastian born 9/4), 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, 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 Nikolai Velimirovich** in the Prologue from Ochrid speaks to us the truth of the birth of the Theotokos as has been handed down to us in tradition from the ages: “The Holy Virgin Mary was born of aged parents, Joachim and Anna. Her father was of the lineage of David, and her mother of the lineage of Aaron. Thus, she was of royal birth by her father, and of priestly birth by her mother. In this, she foreshadowed Him Who would be born of her as King and High Priest. Her parents were quite old and had no children. Because of this they were ashamed before men and humble before God. In their humility they prayed to God with tears, to bring them

joy in their old age by giving them a child, as He had once given joy to the aged Abraham and his wife Sarah by giving them Isaac.

### **Upcoming Celebrations This Week**

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

September 7: Kassiani Andros

September 8: Diana-Maria Cazacu, Ana-Maria Filimon

September 9: Joachim Ehmer, Anne Gordy

September 11: Evelynn Zoumeris Neault

September 13: Cornelius Chiorescu, Arti Passias, Aristides Paul Vrahiotes

**Birthdays—Happy Birthday!**

September 10: Dominic Economopoulos

September 12: Paula Cacavias

September 13: Greg Spicer

**Anniversaries—Congratulations!**

September 9: Ron and Christine Sprouse

(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 **Thursday, September 11 at 6:30pm in person and on Zoom**. The topic will be our Orthodox Christian understanding of prayer for the reposed. 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, September 11 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. 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 plan on staying TODAY after Coffee Fellowship to help with Grape Leaves Prep**. We will be assembling **Dolmades** on Sept. 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!

\* The Registration Deadline for the **Fourth Annual Pan-Orthodox Cross Dive** has passed. The Cross Dive will be taking place this coming Saturday, September 13 at 2:00pm at Lake Tobesofkee. *If you did not have a chance to register, but would still like to attend, please contact Natalia at office@holycrossga.org.*

\* **Our Church’s Name Day will be next weekend**. Due to the Cross Dive, we will have the Festal Great Vespers earlier in the day at 12:00pm with visiting clergy. Sunday services (on September 14) will take place at their normal time. May God always bless our parish named after the Precious and Life-Giving Cross!

\* There will be an **Altar Server Workshop/Meeting** after Liturgy/Coffee Hour TODAY. Please plan on attending this important meeting 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!)

