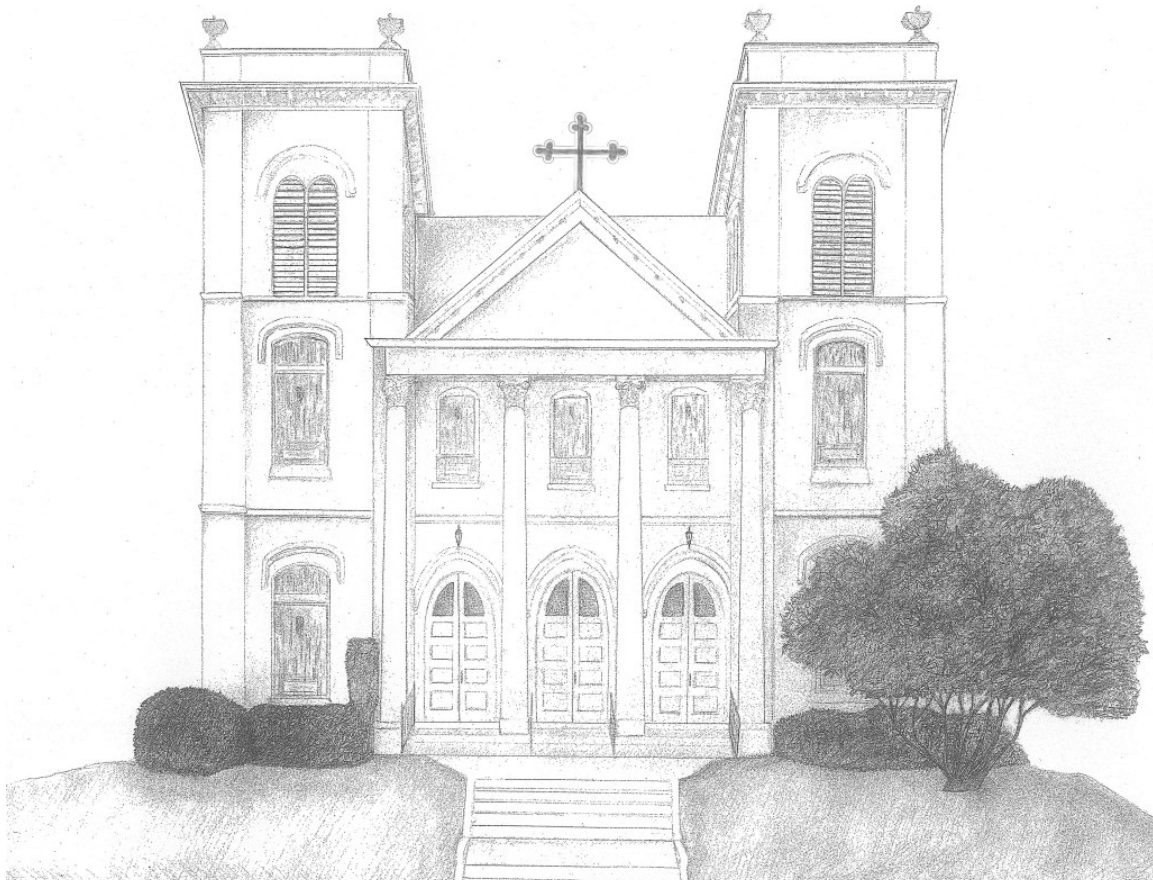




# HOLY CROSS

## GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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

### Sunday, October 12, 2025

Sunday of the 7<sup>th</sup> Ecumenical Council  
Sts. Probus, Tarachus, and Andronicus  
Eothinon/Orthros Gospel: Seventh (John 20:1-10)

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, October 12*

9:15am Orthros  
10:30am Divine Liturgy on the Sunday of the 7<sup>th</sup> 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*

7:00pm Parish Council Meeting

*Wednesday, October 15*

5:30pm Vespers honoring St. Longinos

*Friday, October 17*

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

*Saturday, October 18*

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 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Luke  
Sunday School for the Youth after Holy Communion  
10-year Memorial for George Patras at the end of the Liturgy  
Coffee Fellowship after the Liturgy in the Parish House  
12:45pm Youth Greek Dance

*Wednesday, October 22*

5:30pm Liturgy of St. James @ Cathedral in Atlanta

*Thursday, October 23*

9:00am Festival Set-up (end time - until we finish)

*Friday, October 24*

11:00am 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Central Georgia Greek Festival (until 9:00pm)

*Saturday, October 25*

11:00am 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Central Georgia Greek Festival (until 9:00pm)  
5:00pm Great Vespers for the Feast Day of St. Demetrios the Myrrh-Streamers

*Sunday, October 26*

7:30am Orthros  
8:45am Divine Liturgy on the 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Luke  
11:00am 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Central Georgia Greek Festival (until 4:00pm)

*Tuesday, October 28*

9:30am Orthros  
10:30am Divine Liturgy for the Protection of the Theotokos  
Doxology to celebrate Oxi Day at the end of the Liturgy

*Wednesday, October 29*

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

*Thursday, October 30*

10:30am Orthodox Book Study at Taste and See in Macon  
6:00pm Pumpkin Carving with the Youth

*Saturday, November 1*

4:00pm Byzantine Chant Class  
5:00pm Great Vespers

**Upcoming Epistle Readers:** (10/19) Haris Sorovigas, Beth Zoumberis; (10/26) Pete Tsamolias, Cheryl Schwartzkopf  
**Upcoming PC Member On-Duty:** (10/19) Maria Spicer; (10/26) Sarah Drakopoulos; (11/2) Jim Lekas; (11/9) Gray Y.  
**Upcoming Ushers:** (10/15+17) Charles G.; (10/18) Cheryl + Erick S.; (10/19) Haris S, Sarah D; (10/26) Nikitis Z.  
**Upcoming Video Operators:** (10/17) Daniel; (10/19) David Z; (10/26) Gray, David N (10/28) Adam; (11/2) Natalia  
**Fellowship Hosts:** (10/19) Kathy Patras; (10/26) Festival; (11/2) Haris Sorovigas; (11/9) Youth; (11/16) Juliana G.

### 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

Εὐλογητὸς εἶ Κύριε ὁ Θεὸς τῶν  
πατέρων ἡμῶν.

Στίχ. Ὅτι δίκαιος εἶ ἐπὶ πᾶσιν, οἷς  
ἐποίησας ἡμῖν

+++

Πρὸς Τίτον Ἐπιστολῆς Παύλου τὸ  
ἀνάγνωσμα.

+++

Τέκνον Τίτε, πιστὸς ὁ λόγος· καὶ περὶ  
τούτων βούλομαί σε διαβεβαιοῦσθαι,  
ἵνα φροντίζωσι καλῶν ἔργων  
προΐστασθαι οἱ πεπιστευκότες τῷ Θεῷ.  
ταῦτά ἐστι τὰ καλὰ καὶ ὠφέλιμα τοῖς  
ἀνθρώποις· μωρὰς δὲ ζητήσεις καὶ  
γενεαλογίας καὶ ἔρεις καὶ μάχας  
νομικὰς περιίστασο· εἰσὶ γὰρ  
ἀνωφελεῖς καὶ μάταιοι. αἰρετικὸν  
ἄνθρωπον μετὰ μίαν καὶ δευτέραν  
νουθεσίαν παραιτοῦ, εἰδὼς ὅτι  
ἐξέστραπται ὁ τοιοῦτος καὶ ἀμαρτάνει  
ὦν αὐτοκατάκριτος. Ὅταν πέμψω  
Ἀρτεμᾶν πρὸς σε ἢ Τυχικόν,  
σπούδασον ἐλθεῖν πρὸς με εἰς  
Νικόπολιν· ἐκεῖ γὰρ κέκρικα  
παραχειμάσαι. Ζηνᾶν τὸν νομικὸν καὶ  
Ἀπολλῶ σπουδαίως πρόπεμψον, ἵνα  
μηδὲν αὐτοῖς λείπη. μανθανέτωσαν δὲ  
καὶ οἱ ἡμέτεροι καλῶν ἔργων  
προΐστασθαι εἰς τὰς ἀναγκαίας χρείας,  
ἵνα μὴ ὦσιν ἄκαρποι. Ἀσπάζονται σε  
οἱ μετ’ ἐμοῦ πάντες. ἄσπασαι τοὺς  
φιλοῦντας ἡμᾶς ἐν πίστει. Ἡ χάρις  
μετὰ πάντων ὑμῶν· ἀμήν.

Blessed are You, O Lord God of our  
fathers.

Verse: For You are righteous in all  
You did for us.

+++

The reading is from Paul’s Letter to  
Titus (3:8-15)

+++

Titus, my son, the saying is sure. I  
desire you to insist on these things,  
so that those who have believed in  
God may be careful to apply  
themselves to good deeds; these are  
excellent and profitable to men. But  
avoid stupid controversies,  
genealogies, dissensions, and  
quarrels over the law, for they are  
unprofitable and futile. As for a man  
who is factious, after admonishing  
him once or twice, have nothing  
more to do with him, knowing that  
such a person is perverted and sinful;  
he is self-condemned. When I send  
Artemas or Tychicus to you, do your  
best to come to me at Nicopolis, for I  
have decided to spend the winter  
there. Do your best to speed Zenas  
the lawyer and Apollos on their way;  
see that they lack nothing. And let  
our people learn to apply themselves  
to good deeds, so as to help cases of  
urgent need, and not to be unfruitful.  
All who are with me send greeting to  
you. Greet those who love us in the  
faith. Grace be with you all. Amen.

# The Holy Gospel Reading according to St. Luke (8:5-15)

Sunday of the Fathers of the Seventh Ecumenical Council

Εἶπεν ὁ Κύριος τὴν παραβολὴν ταύτην·  
Ἐξῆλθεν ὁ σπείρων τοῦ σπεῖραι τὸν  
σπόρον αὐτοῦ. καὶ ἐν τῷ σπεῖρειν αὐτὸν ὁ  
μὲν ἔπεσε παρὰ τὴν ὁδόν, καὶ  
κατεπατήθη, καὶ τὰ πετεινὰ τοῦ οὐρανοῦ  
κατέφαγεν αὐτό· καὶ ἕτερον ἔπεσεν ἐπὶ  
τὴν πέτραν, καὶ φυὲν ἐξηράνθη διὰ τὸ μὴ  
ἔχειν ἱκμάδα· καὶ ἕτερον ἔπεσεν ἐν μέσῳ  
τῶν ἀκανθῶν, καὶ συμφυεῖσαι αἱ ἄκανθαι  
ἀπέπνιξαν αὐτό. καὶ ἕτερον ἔπεσεν εἰς τὴν  
γῆν τὴν ἀγαθὴν, καὶ φυὲν ἐποίησε καρπὸν  
ἑκατονταπλασίονα. ταῦτα λέγων ἐφώνει· ὁ  
ἔχων ὦτα ἀκούειν ἀκουέτω. Ἐπρώτων δὲ  
αὐτὸν οἱ μαθηταὶ αὐτοῦ λέγοντες· τίς εἷη ἡ  
παραβολὴ αὕτη; ὁ δὲ εἶπεν· ὑμῖν δέδοται  
γινῶναι τὰ μυστήρια τῆς βασιλείας τοῦ  
Θεοῦ, τοῖς δὲ λοιποῖς ἐν παραβολαῖς, ἵνα  
βλέποντες μὴ βλέπωσι καὶ ἀκούοντες μὴ  
συνιῶσιν. ἔστι δὲ αὕτη ἡ παραβολή· ὁ  
σπόρος ἐστὶν ὁ λόγος τοῦ Θεοῦ· οἱ δὲ  
παρὰ τὴν ὁδὸν εἰσιν οἱ ἀκούσαντες, εἴτα  
ἔρχεται ὁ διάβολος καὶ αἶρει τὸν λόγον  
ἀπὸ τῆς καρδίας αὐτῶν, ἵνα μὴ  
πιστεύσαντες σωθῶσιν. οἱ δὲ ἐπὶ τῆς  
πέτρας οἱ ὅταν ἀκούσωσι, μετὰ χαρᾶς  
δέχονται τὸν λόγον, καὶ οὗτοι ρίζαν οὐκ  
ἔχουσιν, οἱ πρὸς καιρὸν πιστεύουσι καὶ ἐν  
καιρῷ πειρασμοῦ ἀφίστανται. τὸ δὲ εἰς  
τὰς ἀκάνθας πεσόν, οὗτοί εἰσιν οἱ  
ἀκούσαντες, καὶ ὑπὸ μεριμνῶν καὶ  
πλούτου καὶ ἡδονῶν τοῦ βίου  
πορευόμενοι συμπνίγονται καὶ οὐ  
τελεσφοροῦσι. τὸ δὲ ἐν τῇ καλῇ γῇ, οὗτοί  
εἰσιν οἵτινες ἐν καρδίᾳ καλῇ καὶ ἀγαθῇ  
ἀκούσαντες τὸν λόγον κατέχουσι καὶ  
καρποφοροῦσιν ἐν ὑπομονῇ. Ὁ ἔχων ὦτα  
ἀκούειν ἀκουέτω.

The Lord said this parable: “A sower  
went out to sow his seed; and as he  
sowed, some fell along the path, and  
was trodden under foot, and the birds  
of the air devoured it. And some fell on  
the rock; and as it grew up, it withered  
away, because it had no moisture. And  
some fell among thorns; and the thorns  
grew with it and choked it. And some  
fell into good soil and grew, and yielded  
a hundredfold.” And when his disciples  
asked him what this parable meant, he  
said, “To you it has been given to know  
the secrets of the kingdom of God; but  
for others they are in parables, so that  
seeing they may not see, and hearing  
they may not understand. Now the  
parable is this: The seed is the word of  
God. The ones along the path are those  
who have heard; then the devil comes  
and takes away the word from their  
hearts, that they may not believe and be  
saved. And the ones on the rock are  
those who, when they hear the word,  
receive it with joy; but these have no  
root, they believe for a while and in  
time of temptation fall away. And as for  
what fell among the thorns, they are  
those who hear, but as they go on their  
way they are choked by the cares and  
riches and pleasures of life, and their  
fruit does not mature. And as for that in  
the good soil, they are those who,  
hearing the word, hold it fast in an  
honest and good heart, and bring forth  
fruit with patience.” As he said these  
things, he cried out, “He who has ears  
to hear, let him hear.”

# 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 October 12, 2025**

**Ushers on Duty:** Sarah Drakopoulos, Maria Spicer

**Video:** Cristina Lekas

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

**Epistle Readers:** Helen Troupos (Greek); Richard Stewart (English)

**Fellowship Host (Thank You!):** Helen Vardy

**PC Member On-Duty:** Maria Spicer



### **Today our Holy Orthodox Church commemorates:**

- + The Holy Fathers of the Seventh Ecumenical Council at Nicaea (+787)

*On the Sunday that falls on or immediately after the eleventh of this month, we chant the Service to the 350 holy Fathers of the Seventh Ecumenical Council, which gathered in Nicaea in 787 under the holy Patriarch Tarasius and during the reign of the Empress Irene and her son, Constantine Porphyrogenitus, to refute the Iconoclast heresy, which had received imperial support beginning with the Edict issued in 726 by Emperor Leo the Isaurian. Many of the holy Fathers who condemned Iconoclasm at this holy Council later died as Confessors and Martyrs for the holy Icons during the second assault of Iconoclasm in the ninth century.*

- + The Holy Martyrs Probus (Πρόβος), Tarachus (Τάραχος), and Andronicus (Ανδρόνικος) (+304)
- + The Holy Martyr Domnina (Δομνίνη) in Cilicia (+286)
- + The Holy Martyr Anastasia (Αναστασία) the Virgin of Rome (+250)
- + The Holy Seventy Martyrs
- + Our Devout Father Theodotos (Θεόδοτος), Bishop of Ephesus
- + The Holy Martyrs Malphetha (Μαλφεθά), Anthia (Ανθία), Juveninus (Ιουβεννίνος), Maximos (Μάξιμος), Andromachos (Ανδρομάχος), and Diodoros (Διόδωρος)
- + Our Devout Father Jason (Ιάσων), Bishop of Damascus
- + Our Devout Father Symeon (Συμεών) the New Theologian (+1022)

*Saint Symeon became a monk of the Studite Monastery as a young man, under the guidance of the elder Symeon the Pious. Afterwards he struggled at the Monastery of Saint Mamas in Constantinople, of which he became abbot. After enduring many trials and afflictions in his life of piety, he reposed in 1022. Marveling at the heights of prayer and holiness to which he attained, and the loftiness of the teachings of his life and writings, the church calls him "the New Theologian." Only to two others, John the Evangelist and Gregory, Patriarch of Constantinople, has the church given the name "Theologian." Saint Symeon reposed on March 12, but since this always falls in the Great Fast, his feast is kept today.*

*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 (Του λίθου σπαραγισθέντος, 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!” (*Sung before and after the Small Entrance. Greek Text found in hymnal on pg. 98*)

- *Hymn of the Fathers (Υπερδεδοξασμένος ει, Plagal Fourth Mode):*

Supremely glorified are You, O Christ our God, who established the holy Fathers on earth as beacons, and through them guided us all to the true Faith. Most compassionate Lord, glory be to You!

- *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. (*Greek text found on the back of the bulletin*).

- *The Normal Kontakion of the Theotokos (Προστασία των Χριστιανών, 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, October 12: Sunday of the Seventh Ec. Council**

*No Fasting*

John 20:1-10; Titus 3:8-15; Luke 8:5-15

**Monday, October 13: St. Benjamin the Deacon**

*No Fasting*

Philippians 1:1-7; Luke 7:36-50

**Tuesday, October 14: Sts. Nazarius and those with him**

*No Fasting*

Philippians 1:8-14; Luke 8:1-3

**Wednesday, October 15: St. Lucian of Antioch**

*Strict Fast*

Philippians 1:12-20; Luke 8:22-25

**Thursday, October 16: St. Longinus the Centurion**

*No Fasting*

Philippians 1:20-27; Matthew 27:33-54

**Friday, October 17: Hosea the Prophet**

*Strict Fast*

Romans 9:18-33; Luke 9:12-18

**Saturday, October 18: St. Luke the Evangelist**

*No Fasting*

Colossians 4:5-11, 14-18; Luke 10:16-21

### **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:**

Clark (+September 4), Tammy (+September 22)

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

Amanda, Antigone, Betty, Kalie (baby girl born 10/9)

### **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 John of Kronstadt** with an important teaching on prayer: ““When praying, keep to the rule that it is better to say five words from the depth of your heart than ten thousand words with your tongue only. When you observe that your heart is cold and prays unwillingly, stop praying and warm your heart by vividly representing to yourself either your own wickedness, your spiritual poverty, misery, and blindness, or the great benefits which God bestows every moment upon you and all mankind, especially upon Christians, and then pray slowly and

fervently. If you do not have time to say all your prayers, it does not matter, and you will receive incomparably greater benefit from praying fervently and not hurriedly than if you had said all your prayers hurriedly and without feeling: 'I had rather speak five words with my understanding than ten thousand words in an unknown tongue' (I Cor. 14:19)...It is well to pray long and continually; but 'All men cannot receive this saying, save they to whom it is given' (Mt. 19:11,12)."

### **Upcoming Celebrations This Week**

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

October 16: CJ Newberry

October 18: Norm Adams, Lukas Esquivel, Lucas Lekas, Luke Zoumberis

**Birthdays—Happy Birthday!**

October 12: Jonathan Brock, Marianna Lane

October 16: Evelynn Zoumberis

October 17: Indie Day Morris

**Anniversaries—Congratulations!**

October 13: Maria and Barry Mahoney

October 17: Rodica and George Cazacu

*(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 **after the Greek Festival—tentatively on Wednesday, October 29 at 6:30pm**. For Inquirers/Catechumens—please look out for an email from Father Theodore that has been sent regarding upcoming individual meetings in the next couple of weeks.

\* The **Orthodox Book Study** will resume after the Festival!

\* **FESTIVAL INFO (OCTOBER 24-26):** The festival is approaching! Have you taken off for Friday, October 24th yet? **Raffle** Tickets need to be turned in (sold and unsold) to Natalia as soon as possible. **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 next Saturday, October 18th at 9am. **Where are you working?** Please contact a Booth Chairman if you are available to help. We need everyone to help! 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!

\* Father Theodore was this past week at the National Clergy Retreat. Thank you for your prayers for his safe travel. This coming week, **Presvytera Stacey will travel** to San Antonio, Texas for the National Presbyteres Retreat from Wednesday to Saturday. Please pray for her safe travels and for the important ministry of the Presvyteres (wives of the priests)!

