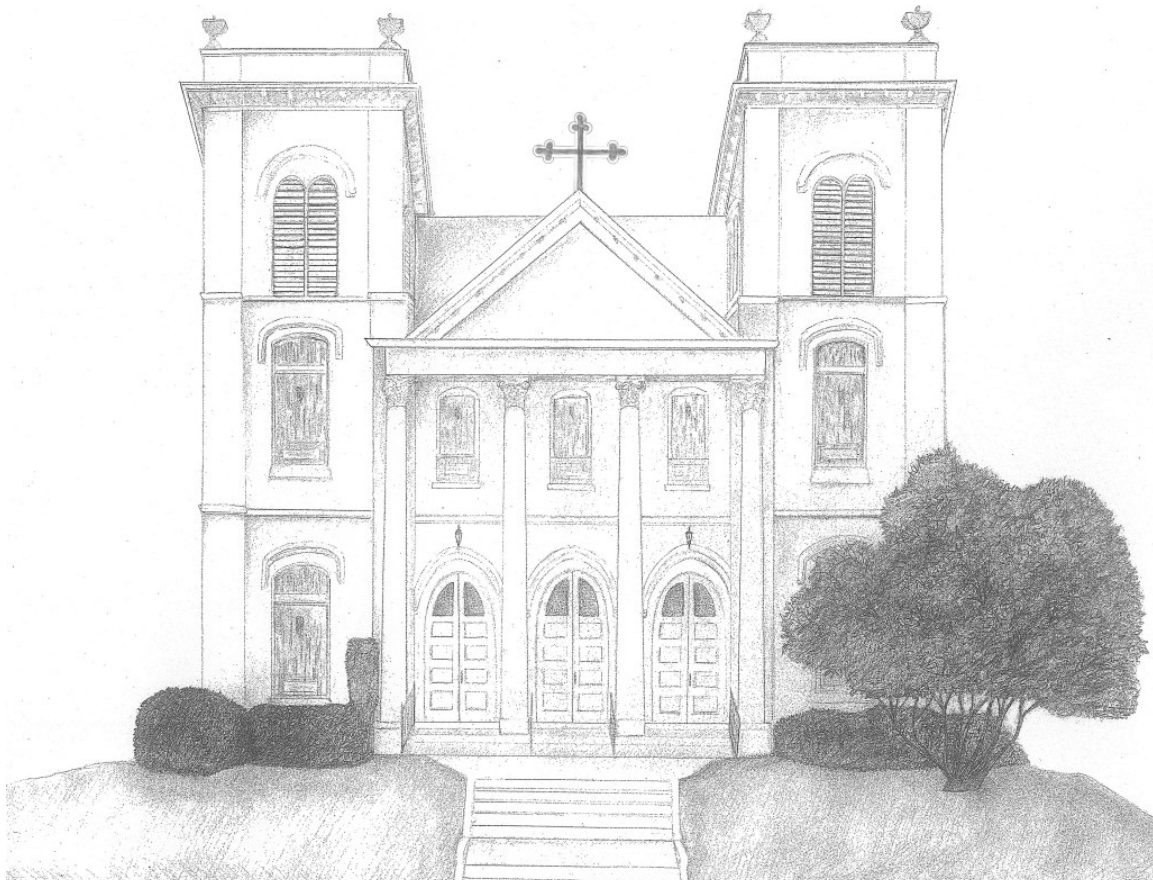




HOLY CROSS

GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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

Sunday, October 19, 2025

Third Sunday of Luke

The Holy Prophet Joel

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

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, October 19

9:15am Orthros
10:30am Divine Liturgy on the 3rd 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

Tuesday, October 21

7:00pm Parish Council Meeting

Wednesday, October 22

5:30pm Divine 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 18th Annual Central Georgia Greek Festival (until 9:00pm)

Saturday, October 25

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

Sunday, October 26

7:30am Orthros
8:45am Divine Liturgy on the 6th Sunday of Luke
11:00am 18th 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

Sunday, November 2

9:15am Orthros
10:30am Divine Liturgy on the 5th Sunday of Luke
Sunday School for the Youth after Holy Communion
Coffee Fellowship after the Liturgy in the Parish House
Bible Study
12:45pm

Wednesday, November 5

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

Thursday, November 6

10:30am Orthodox Book Study at Taste and See in Macon
6:00pm Divine Liturgy honoring St. Willibrord, enlightener of the Netherlands

Upcoming Epistle Readers: (10/26) Pete Tsamolias, Cheryl Schwartzkopf; (11/2) Aleca Hortman, Nicholas True
Upcoming PC Member On-Duty: (10/26) Sarah Drakopoulos; (11/2) Jim Lekas; (11/9) Gray Yates; (11/16) Natalia S.
Upcoming Ushers: (10/26) Nikitis Z.; (10/28) OPEN; (10/29) Charles G.; (11/1) Joanna P.; (11/2) Sarah D, Nic+Pam P
Upcoming Video Operators: (10/26) Gray, David N (10/28) Adam; (11/2) Natalia; (11/9) Cristina L; (11/14) Norm A
Fellowship Hosts: (10/26) Festival; (11/2) Haris Sorovigas; (11/9) Youth; (11/16) Juliana Gordy; (11/23) Sarah D.

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 Β΄ Ἐπιστολῆς Παύλου τὸ
ἀνάγνωσμα.

+++

Ἀδελφοί, ὁ Θεὸς καὶ πατὴρ τοῦ Κυρίου ἡμῶν
Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ οἶδεν, ὁ ὢν εὐλογητὸς εἰς τοὺς
αἰῶνας, ὅτι οὐ ψεύδομαι. ἐν Δαμασκῷ ὁ
ἐθνάρχης Ἀρέτα τοῦ βασιλέως ἐφρούρει τὴν
Δαμασκηνῶν πόλιν πιάσαι με θέλων, καὶ διὰ
θυρίδος ἐν σαργάνῃ ἐχαλάσθην διὰ τοῦ
τείχους καὶ ἐξέφυγον τὰς χεῖρας αὐτοῦ.
Καυχᾶσθαι δὴ οὐ συμφέρει μοι· ἐλεύσομαι
γάρ εἰς ὀπτασίας καὶ ἀποκαλύψεις Κυρίου.
οἶδα ἄνθρωπον ἐν Χριστῷ πρὸ ἐτῶν
δεκατεσσάρων· εἴτε ἐν σώματι οὐκ οἶδα, εἴτε
ἐκτὸς τοῦ σώματος οὐκ οἶδα, ὁ Θεὸς οἶδεν·
ἄρπαγέντα τὸν τοιοῦτον ἕως τρίτου οὐρανοῦ.
καὶ οἶδα τὸν τοιοῦτον ἄνθρωπον· εἴτε ἐν
σώματι εἴτε ἐκτὸς τοῦ σώματος οὐκ οἶδα, ὁ
Θεὸς οἶδεν· ὅτι ἡρπάγη εἰς τὸν παράδεισον καὶ
ἤκουσεν ἄρρητα ῥήματα, ἃ οὐκ ἐξὸν ἀνθρώπῳ
λαλῆσαι. ὑπὲρ τοῦ τοιούτου καυχῆσομαι, ὑπὲρ
δὲ ἑμαυτοῦ οὐ καυχῆσομαι εἰ μὴ ἐν ταῖς
ἀσθενείαις μου. ἐὰν γὰρ θελήσω καυχῆσασθαι,
οὐκ ἔσομαι ἄφρων· ἀλήθειαν γὰρ ἐρῶ·
φείδομαι δὲ μὴ τις εἰς ἐμὲ λογίσται ὑπὲρ ὃ
βλέπει με ἢ ἀκούει τι ἐξ ἐμοῦ. Καὶ τῇ
ὑπερβολῇ τῶν ἀποκαλύψεων ἵνα μὴ
ὑπεραίρωμαι, ἐδόθη μοι σκόλοψ τῇ σαρκί,
ἄγγελος σατᾶν, ἵνα με κολαφίσῃ ἵνα μὴ
ὑπεραίρωμαι. ὑπὲρ τούτου τρις τὸν Κύριον
παρεκάλεσα ἵνα ἀποστῇ ἀπ’ ἐμοῦ· καὶ εἰρηκέ
μοι· ἀρκεῖ σοι ἡ χάρις μου· ἡ γὰρ δύναμίς μου
ἐν ἀσθενείᾳ τελειοῦται. ἥδιστα οὖν μᾶλλον
καυχῆσομαι ἐν ταῖς ἀσθενείαις μου, ἵνα
ἐπισκηνώσῃ ἐπ’ ἐμὲ ἡ δύναμις 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 Second Letter to
the Corinthians. (11:31-12:9)

+++

Brethren, the God and Father of our Lord
Jesus Christ, he who is blessed for ever,
knows that I do not lie. At Damascus, the
governor under King Aretas guarded the city
of Damascus and wanted to seize me, but I
was let down in a basket through a window
in the wall, and escaped his hands. I must
boast; there is nothing to be gained by it, but
I will go on to visions and revelations of the
Lord. I know a man in Christ who fourteen
years ago was caught up to the third heaven
— whether in the body or out of the body I do
not know, God knows. And I know that this
man was caught up into Paradise — whether
in the body or out of the body I do not know,
God knows — and he heard things that
cannot be told, which man may not utter. On
behalf of this man I will boast, but on my
own behalf I will not boast, except of my
weaknesses. Though if I wish to boast, I shall
not be a fool, for I shall be speaking the
truth. But I refrain from it, so that no one
may think more of me than he sees in me or
hears from me. And to keep me from being
too elated by the abundance of revelations, a
thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger
of Satan, to harass me, to keep me from
being too elated. Three times I besought the
Lord about this, that it should leave me; but
he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you,
for my power is made perfect in weakness.” I
will all the more gladly boast of my
weaknesses, that the power of Christ may
rest upon me.

The Holy Gospel Reading according to St. Luke (7:11-16)

Third Sunday of Luke

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, ἐπορεύετο
ὁ Ἰησοῦς εἰς πόλιν
καλουμένην Ναῖν· καὶ
συνεπορεύοντο αὐτῷ οἱ
μαθηταὶ αὐτοῦ ἱκανοὶ καὶ
ὄχλος πολὺς. ὥς δὲ ἤγγισε τῇ
πύλῃ τῆς πόλεως, καὶ ἰδοὺ
ἐξεκομίζετο τεθνηκὼς υἱὸς
μονογενῆς τῇ μητρὶ αὐτοῦ,
καὶ αὕτη ἦν χήρα, καὶ ὄχλος
τῆς πόλεως ἱκανὸς ἦν σὺν
αὐτῇ. καὶ ἰδὼν αὐτὴν ὁ
Κύριος ἐσπλαγχνίσθη ἐπ’
αὐτῇ καὶ εἶπεν αὐτῇ· μὴ
κλαῖε· καὶ προσελθὼν ἤψατο
τῆς σοροῦ, οἱ δὲ βαστάζοντες
ἔστησαν, καὶ εἶπε· νεανίσκε,
σοὶ λέγω, ἐγέρθητι. καὶ
ἀνεκάθισεν ὁ νεκρὸς καὶ
ἤρξατο λαλεῖν, καὶ ἔδωκεν
αὐτὸν τῇ μητρὶ αὐτοῦ. ἔλαβε
δὲ φόβος πάντας καὶ ἐδόξαζον
τὸν Θεόν, λέγοντες ὅτι
προφήτης μέγας ἐγήγερται ἐν
ἡμῖν, καὶ ὅτι ἐπεσκέψατο ὁ
Θεὸς τὸν λαὸν αὐτοῦ.

At that time, Jesus went to
a city called Nain, and his
disciples and a great crowd
went with him. As he drew
near to the gate of the city,
behold, a man who had
died was being carried out,
the only son of his mother,
and she was a widow; and a
large crowd from the city
was with her. And when the
Lord saw her, he had
compassion on her and said
to her, “Do not weep.” And
he came and touched the
bier, and the bearers stood
still. And he said, “Young
man, I say to you, arise.”
And the dead man sat up,
and began to speak. And he
gave him to his mother.
Fear seized them all; and
they glorified God, saying,
“A great prophet has arisen
among us!” and “God has
visited his people!”

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 19, 2025

Ushers on Duty: Sarah Drakopoulos, Haris Sorovigas

Video: David Zoumberis **Altar Servers:** All Adult/Youth Servers

Epistle Readers: Haris Sorovigas (Greek); Beth Zoumberis (English)

Fellowship Host (Thank You!): Kathy Patras

PC Member On-Duty: John Apostolou



Today our Holy Orthodox Church commemorates:

- + The Holy Prophet Joel (Ιωήλ) (+7th Century BC)

The Prophet Joel, whose name means "Yah is God," was of the tribe of Reuben, the son of Bathuel, and lived from 810 to 750 B.C. (but some say in the 7th century B.C.). His book is divided into three chapters, and is the second in order of the minor Prophets. He foretold the coming of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost (Joel 2:28, and quoted by the Apostle Peter in Acts 2:17), and the saving power of the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ (Joel 2:32).

- + The Holy Martyr Varys (Οὐάρος) and those with him (+304)

Saint Varys contested for the sake of Christ during the reign of Maximian, in the year 304. He was a soldier in the service of the Emperor Maximian, and held in honour for his courage. While in Egypt, he visited the Christians held in prison and comforted them. Among them, he visited seven monks imprisoned together; when one of them died from his torments, Saint Varys took his place. When this became known to the governor, Saint Varys was arrested and tortured to death.

- + The Holy Martyr Sadoth (Σαδωθ) and the 120 Martyrs with him who died in Persia (+342)

- + Our Devout Father Leo (Λεόντιος) the Philosopher (+624)

- + The Holy Martyrs Felix (Φήλιξ) the Priest and Eusebius (Ευσέβιος) the Deacon

- + Our Devout Father John (Ιωάννης) the Wonderworker, ascetic of Mount Rila (+946)

Saint John of Rilas founded the renowned monastery of that name in Bulgaria in the tenth century. Over the centuries, great and wondrous healings have flowed from his holy relics.

- + The Blessed Cleopatra (Κλεοπάτρα) and her son John (Ιωάννης) in Egypt (+320)

- + Our Devout Mother Frideswide (Φριδεσγουίδη) of Oxford (+727)

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. Luke (Απόστολε Αγιε, Third Mode):*

O holy Apostle and Evangelist Luke, make intercession to our merciful God, that He grant our souls forgiveness of offenses.

- *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*)

- *Hymn of the Memorial Service (Μνήσθητι, Κύριε, Plagal of the Fourth Mode):*

Remember, O Lord, as You are good, Your servant, and forgive every sin he has committed in this life. For no one is sinless except You, Who has power to grant rest to those who have fallen asleep.

- *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 19: Prophet Joel

No Fasting

John 20:11-18; II Corinthians 11:31-33, 12:1-9; Luke 7:11-16

Monday, October 20: St. Artemius the Great

No Fasting

II Timothy 2:1-10; Luke 9:18-22

Tuesday, October 21: St. Christodoulos the Wonderworker

No Fasting

II Corinthians 9:6-11; Luke 9:23-27

Wednesday, October 22: St. Averkios the Wonderworker

Strict Fast

Philippians 2:24-30; Luke 9:44-50

Thursday, October 23: St. James, Brother of the Lord

No Fasting

Galatians 1:11-19; Matthew 13:54-58

Friday, October 24: Sr. Arethas the Great Martyr

Strict Fast

Philippians 3:8-19; Luke 10:1-15

Saturday, October 25: Sts. Marcian and Martyrius

No Fasting

II Corinthians 1:8-11; Luke 7:1-10

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, Gabriel, Bradaen

Prayers for those recently reposed:

Clark (+September 4), Tammy (+September 22), George (+October 14)

Prayers for expecting mothers:

Amanda, Antigone, Betty

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 Nektarios of Aegina with an important teaching on prayer and the gift that it is in our lives: “Prayer is truly a heavenly armor, and is alone can keep safe those who have dedicated themselves to God. Prayer is the common medicine for purifying ourselves from the passions, for hindering sin and curing our faults. Prayer is an inexhaustible treasure, an unruffled harbor, the foundation of serenity, the root and mother of myriads of blessings.”

Upcoming Celebrations This Week

Name Days—Chronia Polla, Many Years!
October 23: James Scarborough

Birthdays—Happy Birthday!

October 21: Michael Drakopoulos, Juliana Gordy

October 22: Aaron Nicholas Vrahiotes

October 23: Danny Jude McBride

October 24: Gloria Dixon, Chrissy Zdrakas

October 25: George Cazacu

Anniversaries—Congratulations!

October 19: Paul and Tammy Vrahiotes

October 20: Chloe and Sean Morris

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

Announcements:

* **THE FESTIVAL IS THIS COMING WEEKEND!!!** We will be setting up tents this Wednesday after work around 6:30pm. Anyone who is available, please come! We also need to put all the beverages in the truck. **Thursday**, we will start at 9am setting all tents. This will last all day so please come whenever you can. **Booth Chairmen** - please make sure your booth is set up and ready to go by the end of the day Thursday. **All money & raffle tickets** need to be returned *yesterday!* Please make arrangements with Natalia prior to Wednesday if you still have any outstanding balances. **Still not sure where you are working?** Please refer to the email that was sent out by the Festival or contact one of the Festival Chairmen and they can assist you. 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. **After fellowship hour today**, the Men's Brotherhood will be putting yard signs around town. Please get with Felix if you are available to help out!



* 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. We will be reading the book *How to Be a Sinner: Finding Yourself in the Language of Repentance* by Peter Bouteneff.

* The **Divine Liturgy of St. James** will be celebrated this coming week at the Annunciation Cathedral. Some faithful are planning on attending—let Father Theodore know in order for the possibility of carpooling.

* Please see the website atlmetropolisevents.org for more information and for tickets to the **banquet honoring our former bishop, Metropolitan Alexios**, at the Cathedral on the evening of Friday, November 7.

* **Fall General Assembly** will be taking place on Sunday, November 9 after the Divine Liturgy. Please plan on attending!