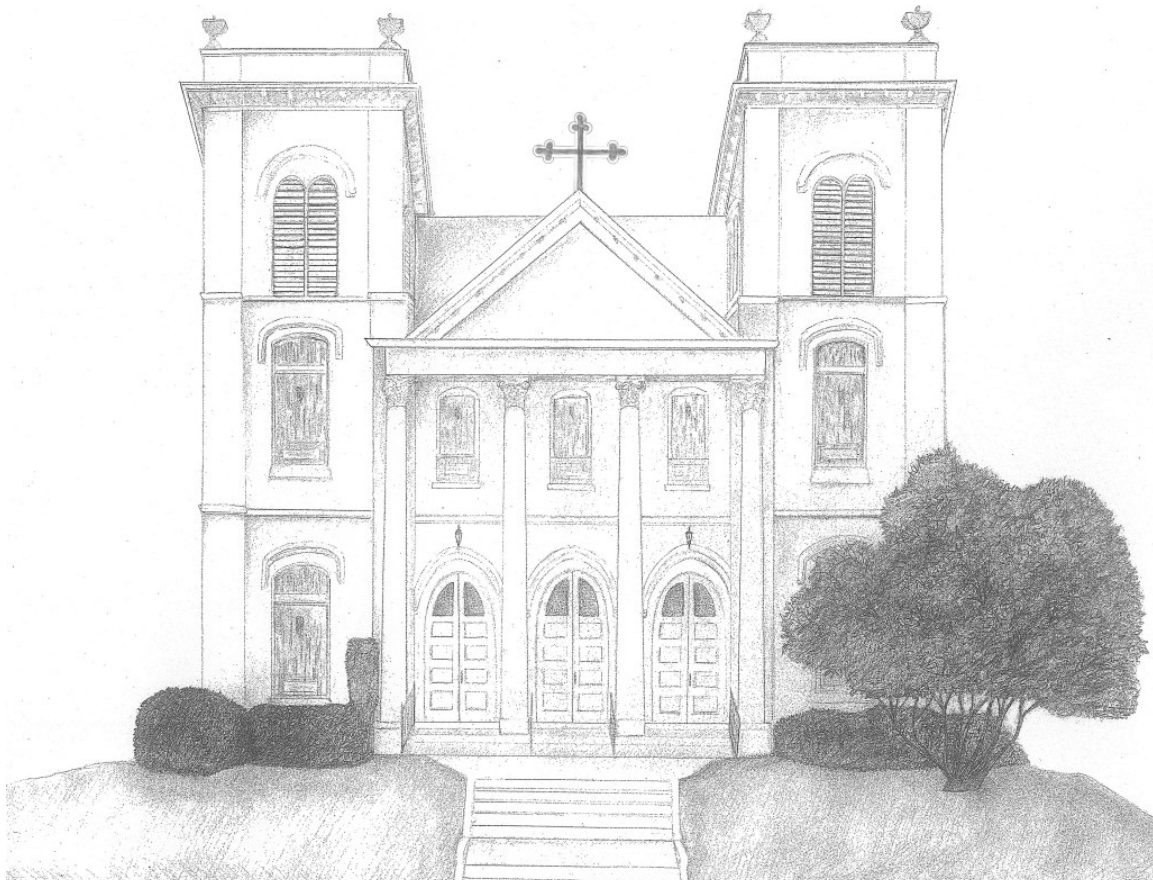




HOLY CROSS

GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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

Sunday, October 26, 2025

Sixth Sunday of Luke

St. Demetrios the Great Martyr

Eothinon/Orthros Gospel: Nineth (John 20:19-31)

Mode of the Week: Third / Τρίτος

QR Codes (scan with smart phone for service texts)

Orthros, part 1



Orthros, part 2



Divine Liturgy



Upcoming Schedule

Today, 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

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
Blessing of New Catechumens during the Liturgy
Sunday School for the Youth after Holy Communion
Coffee Fellowship after the Liturgy in the Parish House
12:45pm Bible Study

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

Friday, November 7

6:00pm Banquet honoring Metropolitan Alexios at the Cathedral in Atlanta

Saturday, November 8

6:00pm Archangel Michael Awards Banquet at the Cathedral in Atlanta

Sunday, November 9

9:15am Orthros
10:30am Divine Liturgy on the 7th Sunday of Luke and the Feast Day of St. Nektarios the Wonderworker
Sunday School for the Youth after Holy Communion
Coffee Fellowship after the Liturgy in the Parish House
12:30pm Fall General Assembly

Monday, November 10

9:30am Orthros
10:30am Divine Liturgy on the Feast Day of St. Arsenios of Cappadocia

Tuesday, November 11

Veterans Day—Office Closed

Upcoming Epistle Readers: (11/2) Aleca Hortman, Nicholas True; (11/9) George Saratsiotis, Caroline Saratsiotis
Upcoming PC Member On-Duty: (11/2) Jim Lekas; (11/9) Gray Yates; (11/16) Natalia Saratsiotis; (11/23) Jim Lekas
Upcoming Ushers: (10/28) OPEN; (10/29) Charles G.; (11/1) Joanna P.; (11/2) Sarah D, Nic+Pam P.; (11/5) Charles G.
Upcoming Video Operators: (10/28) Adam L; (11/2) Natalia S; (11/9) Cristina L; (11/14) Norm A; (11/16) David Z
Fellowship Hosts: (11/2) Haris Sorovigas; (11/9) Youth Potluck; (11/16) Juliana Gordy; (11/23) Sarah Drakopoulos

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

Εὐφρανθήσεται δίκαιος ἐν Κυρίῳ.

Στίχ. Εἰσάκουσον, ὁ Θεός, τῆς φωνῆς μου.

+++

*Πρὸς Τιμόθεον Β΄ Ἐπιστολῆς
Παύλου τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα.*

+++

Τέκνον Τιμόθεε, ἐνδυναμοῦ ἐν τῇ χάριτι τῇ ἐν Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ, καὶ ἃ ἤκουσας παρ’ ἐμοῦ διὰ πολλῶν μαρτύρων, ταῦτα παράθου πιστοῖς ἀνθρώποις, οἵτινες ἱκανοὶ ἔσονται καὶ ἐτέρους διδάξαι. σὺ οὖν κακοπάθησον ὡς καλὸς στρατιώτης Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ. οὐδεὶς στρατευόμενος ἐμπλέκεται ταῖς τοῦ βίου πραγματείαις, ἵνα τῷ στρατολογήσαντι ἀρέσῃ. ἐὰν δὲ καὶ ἀθλῇ τις, οὐ στεφανοῦται, ἐὰν μὴ νομίμως ἀθλήσῃ. τὸν κοπιῶντα γεωργὸν δεῖ πρῶτον τῶν καρπῶν μεταλαμβάνειν. νόει ἃ λέγω· δῶν γάρ σοι ὁ Κύριος σύνεσιν ἐν πᾶσι. Μνημόνευε Ἰησοῦν Χριστὸν ἐγγεγερμένον ἐκ νεκρῶν, ἐκ σπέρματος Δαυὶδ, κατὰ τὸ εὐαγγέλιόν μου, ἐν ᾧ κακοπαθῶ μέχρι δεσμῶν ὡς κακοῦργος· ἀλλ’ ὁ λόγος τοῦ Θεοῦ οὐ δέδεται. διὰ τοῦτο πάντα ὑπομένω διὰ τοὺς ἐκλεκτούς, ἵνα καὶ αὐτοὶ σωτηρίας τύχωσι τῆς ἐν Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ μετὰ δόξης αἰωνίου.

The righteous man shall be glad in the Lord.

Verse: Hear my voice, O God.

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The reading is from Paul’s Second Letter to Timothy. (2:1-10)

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Timothy, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus, and what you have heard from me before many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also. Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. No soldier on service gets entangled in civilian pursuits, since his aim is to satisfy the one who enlisted him. An athlete is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules. It is the hard-working farmer who ought to have the first share of the crops. Think over what I say, for the Lord will grant you understanding in everything. Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, descended from David, as preached in my gospel, the gospel for which I am suffering and wearing fetters like a criminal. But the word of God is not fettered. Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain salvation in Christ Jesus with its eternal glory.

The Holy Gospel Reading according to St. Luke (8:26-39)

Sixth Sunday of Luke

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, ἐλθόντι τῷ Ἰησοῦ εἰς τὴν χώραν τῶν Γαδαρηνῶν ὑπῆντησεν αὐτῷ ἀνὴρ τις ἐκ τῆς πόλεως, ὃς εἶχε δαιμόνια ἐκ χρόνων ἱκανῶν, καὶ ἱμάτιον οὐκ ἐνεδιδύσκετο καὶ ἐν οἰκίᾳ οὐκ ἔμενεν, ἀλλ’ ἐν τοῖς μνήμασιν. ἰδὼν δὲ τὸν Ἰησοῦν καὶ ἀνακράξας προσέπεσεν αὐτῷ καὶ φωνῇ μεγάλῃ εἶπε· τί ἐμοὶ καὶ σοί, Ἰησοῦ, υἱὲ τοῦ Θεοῦ τοῦ ὑψίστου; δέομαί σου, μή με βασανίσῃς. παρήγγειλε γὰρ τῷ πνεύματι τῷ ἀκαθάρτῳ ἐξελθεῖν ἀπὸ τοῦ ἀνθρώπου. πολλοῖς γὰρ χρόνοις συνηρπάκει αὐτόν, καὶ ἐδεσμεῖτο ἀλύσει καὶ πέδαις φυλασσόμενος, καὶ διαρρήσων τὰ δεσμὰ ἠλαύνετο ὑπὸ τοῦ δαίμονος εἰς τὰς ἐρήμους. ἐπηρώτησε δὲ αὐτὸν ὁ Ἰησοῦς λέγων· τί σοὶ ἐστὶν ὄνομα; ὁ δὲ εἶπε· λεγεὼν· ὅτι δαιμόνια πολλὰ εἰσῆλθεν εἰς αὐτόν· καὶ παρεκάλει αὐτόν ἵνα μὴ ἐπιτάξῃ αὐτοῖς εἰς τὴν ἄβυσσον ἀπελθεῖν. ἦν δὲ ἐκεῖ ἀγέλη χοίρων ἱκανῶν βοσκομένων ἐν τῷ ὄρει· καὶ παρεκάλουν αὐτόν ἵνα ἐπιτρέψῃ αὐτοῖς εἰς ἐκείνους εἰσελθεῖν· καὶ ἐπέτρεψεν αὐτοῖς. ἐξελθόντα δὲ τὰ δαιμόνια ἀπὸ τοῦ ἀνθρώπου εἰσῆλθον εἰς τοὺς χοίρους, καὶ ὥρμησεν ἡ ἀγέλη κατὰ τοῦ κρημνοῦ εἰς τὴν λίμνην καὶ ἀπεπνίγη. ἰδόντες δὲ οἱ βόσκοντες τὸ γεγεννημένον ἔφυγον, καὶ ἀπήγγειλαν εἰς τὴν πόλιν καὶ εἰς τοὺς ἀγρούς. ἐξῆλθον δὲ ἰδεῖν τὸ γεγονός, καὶ ἦλθον πρὸς τὸν Ἰησοῦν καὶ εὗρον καθημένον τὸν ἄνθρωπον, ἀφ’ οὗ τὰ δαιμόνια ἐξεληλύθει, ἱματισμένον καὶ σωφρονοῦντα παρὰ τοὺς πόδας τοῦ Ἰησοῦ, καὶ ἐφοβήθησαν. ἀπήγγειλαν δὲ αὐτοῖς οἱ ἰδόντες πῶς ἐσώθη ὁ δαιμονισθεὶς. καὶ ἠρώτησαν αὐτόν ἅπαν τὸ πλῆθος τῆς περιχώρου τῶν Γαδαρηνῶν ἀπελθεῖν ἀπ’ αὐτῶν, ὅτι φόβῳ μεγάλῳ συνείχοντο. αὐτὸς δὲ ἐμβὰς εἰς τὸ πλοῖον ὑπέστρεψεν. ἐδέετο δὲ αὐτοῦ ὁ ἀνὴρ, ἀφ’ οὗ ἐξεληλύθει τὰ δαιμόνια, εἶναι σὺν αὐτῷ· ἀπέλυσε δὲ αὐτόν ὁ Ἰησοῦς λέγων· ὑπόστρεφε εἰς τὸν οἶκόν σου καὶ διηγοῦ ὅσα ἐποίησέ σοι ὁ Θεός. καὶ ἀπῆλθε καθ’ ὅλην τὴν πόλιν κηρύσσων ὅσα ἐποίησεν αὐτῷ ὁ Ἰησοῦς.

At that time, as Jesus arrived at the country of the Gadarenes, there met him a man from the city who had demons; for a long time he had worn no clothes and he lived not in a house but among the tombs. When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell down before him, and said with a loud voice, “What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beseech you, do not torment me.” For he had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many a time it had seized him; he was kept under guard, and bound with chains and fetters, but he broke the bonds and was driven by the demon into the desert.) Jesus then asked him, “What is your name?” And he said, “Legion”; for many demons had entered him. And they begged him not to command them to depart into the abyss. Now a large herd of swine was feeding there on the hillside; and they begged him to let them enter these. So he gave them leave. Then the demons came out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and were drowned. When the herdsmen saw what happened, they fled, and told it in the city and in the country. Then people went out to see what had happened, and they came to Jesus, and found the man from whom the demons had gone, sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind; and they were afraid. And those who had seen it told them how he who had been possessed with demons was healed. Then all the people of the surrounding country of the Gadarenes asked him to depart from them; for they were seized with great fear; so he got into the boat and returned. The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with him; but Jesus sent him away, saying, “Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you.” And he went away, proclaiming throughout the whole city how much Jesus had done for him.

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 26, 2025

Ushers on Duty: Nikitis Zoumberis

Video: Gray Y/David N

Altar Servers: All Adult/Youth Servers

Epistle Readers: Pete Tsamolias (Greek); Cheryl Schwartzkopf (Eng.)

Fellowship Host (Thank You!): None/Greek Festival

PC Member On-Duty: Sarah Drakopoulos



Today our Holy Orthodox Church commemorates:

- + The Holy and Glorious Great-Martyr Demetrios the Myrrh-Streamer (Δημήτριος ο Μυροβλύτης) (+306)

Saint Demetrius was a Thessalonian, a most pious son of pious and noble parents, and a teacher of the Faith of Christ. When Maximian first came to Thessalonica in 290, he raised the Saint to the rank of Duke of Thessaly. But when it was discovered that the Saint was a Christian, he was arrested and kept bound in a bath-house. While the games were under way in the city, Maximian was a spectator there. A certain friend of his, a barbarian who was a notable wrestler, Lyaeus by name, waxing haughty because of the height and strength of his body, boasted in the stadium and challenged the citizens to a contest with him. All that fought with him were defeated. Seeing this, a certain youth named Nestor, acquaintance of Demetrius', came to the Saint in the bath-house and asked his blessing to fight Lyaeus single-handed. Receiving this blessing and sealing himself with the sign of the precious Cross, he presented himself in the stadium, and said, "O God of Demetrius, help me!" and straightway he engaged Lyaeus in combat and smote him with a mortal blow to the heart, leaving the former boaster lifeless upon the earth. Maximian was sorely grieved over this, and when he learned who was the cause of this defeat, he commanded straightway and Demetrius was pierced with lances while he was yet in the bath-house, As for Nestor, Maximian commanded that he be slain with his own sword.

- + The Holy Martyrs Artemidoros (Αρτεμίδωρος) and Basil (Βασίλειος)
- + The Holy Martyr Leptina (Λέπτινα)
- + The Holy Martyr Glycon (Γλύκων)
- + The Holy Monastic Martyr Iosaf (Ιωάσαφ) of Mount Athos (+1536)
- + Remembrance of the Great Earthquake in Constantinople

The great earthquake commemorated here took place in 740, during the reign of Leo the Isaurian, the first of the Iconoclast emperors and implored people to repent of their iconoclasm.

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 (Ευφραινέσθω τα οὐράνια, Third Mode):*

Let the heavens be glad. Let the earth rejoice exceedingly. For the Lord has shown strength with his arm. He trampled death by death. He became the first-born of the dead. Out of the belly of Hades, He has rescued us, and to the world He has granted the great mercy. *(Sung before and after the Small Entrance. Greek Text found in hymnal on pg. 106)*

- *Hymn of Remembrance of the Earthquake (Ο επιβλέπων επι την γήν, Plagal Fourth Mode):*

You who look upon the earth and make it tremble, rescue us from the frightful threat of earthquake, O Christ our God. Send down Your abundant mercies on us, at the intercession of the Theotokos, O only benevolent Lord.

- *Hymn of St. Demetrios (Μέγαν εύρωτο, Third Mode):*

All the world has you, its mighty champion, * fortifying us in times of danger, * and defeating our foes, O Victorious One. * So, as you humbled Lyaio's arrogance * by giving courage to Nestor in the stadium, * thus, O holy Great-martyr Demetrios, * to Christ our God pray fervently, * beseeching Him to grant us His great mercy.

- *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 26: St. Demetrios the Myrrh-Streamer

No Fasting

John 20:19-31; II Timothy 2:1-10; Luke 8:26-39

Monday, October 27: St. Nestor the Martyr

No Fasting

Philippians 4:10-23; Luke 10:22-24

Tuesday, October 28: Holy Protection of the Theotokos

No Fasting

Luke 1:39-49, 56; Hebrews 9:1-7; Luke 10:38-42, 11:27-28

Wednesday, October 29: St. Anastasia of Rome

Strict Fast

Colossians 1:18-23; Luke 11:9-13

Thursday, October 30: Sts. Zenobius and Zenobia

No Fasting

Colossians 1:24-29, 2:1; Luke 11:14-23

Friday, October 31: St. Stachys of the Seventy

Strict Fast

Romans 16:1-16; Luke 11:23-26

Saturday, November 1: Sts. Cosmas and Damian of Asia

No Fasting

I Corinthians 12:27-31, 13:1-8; Matthew 10:1, 5-8

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, 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 Silouan the Athonite, a recent monastic and spiritual father of our Orthodox Church, with an important teaching on the freedom that we have in Christ: "The Lord wants us to love one another. Here is freedom: in love for God and neighbor. In this freedom, there is equality. In earthly orders, there may not be equality, but this is not important for the soul. Not everyone can be a king, not everyone a patriarch or a boss. But in any position it is possible to love God and to please Him, and only

this is important. And whoever loves God more on earth will be in greater glory in His Kingdom."

Upcoming Celebrations This Week

Name Days—Chronia Polla, Many Years!

October 26: James Anthony Bennette, James Brock, Jimmy Cacavias, Dimitris Karras, Washington Morris, Dimitris Saratsiotis, Toulia Tsamolias, David Zoumberis

Birthdays—Happy Birthday!

October 26: Jimmy Cacavias, Paulina Stone

October 28: Andreas Tsamolias

October 29: Harry Bennette, Patsy Zoumberis

October 30: Roza Harris

October 31: Tammy Vrahiotes

November 1: Milijana Hansee, Beth Zoumberis

Anniversaries—Congratulations!

October 26: Georgia and Dimitris Karras

October 31: Mike and Tammi Cantrell, Nicholas and Pamela Poulos

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

Announcements:

* Today is the last day for the **18th Annual Central Georgia Greek Festival**. Thank you to everyone who came out to help. We cannot do this without all of you! Please be sure to help break down at the end of the festival today (4pm).

* The next **Introduction to the Orthodox Church** class will take place **this coming Wednesday, October 29 at 6:30pm in the Church**. We will welcome both those who have signed up with their interest from the festival and also our current inquirers/catechumens. If you are interested in taking part in this class, please contact Father Theodore at frtheodore@holycrossga.org.

* The **Orthodox Book Study** will resume this week. We will be reading the book *How to Be a Sinner: Finding Yourself in the Language of Repentance* by Peter Bouteneff. There are a few copies of this book available in the bookstore. Hope to see you at Taste and See in Downtown Macon on Thursday at 10:00am!

* **2026 Parish Directory** edits are currently taking place. For those in the current directory, an email was sent out with your information. Please respond to let us know if it is correct or not by the end of the month. If you are not in the directory, please contact Natalia by emailing her at office@holycrossga.org so we can include you in the directory for next year.

* Please see the website atlmetropolisevents.org for more information and for tickets to the **banquet honoring our former bishop, Metropolitan Alexios**, at the Annunciation Cathedral in Atlanta on the evening of Friday, November 7 at 6:00pm.

* **Fall General Assembly** will be taking place on Sunday, November 9 after the Divine Liturgy. Please plan on attending as we will discuss many important items—including our parish's budget for 2026.