



HOLY CROSS

GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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

Sunday, November 16, 2025

St. Matthew the Apostle & Evangelist

Eothinon/Orthros Gospel: First (Matthew 28:16-20)

Mode of the Week: Plagal of the Second/Πλ. του Δευτέρου

QR Codes (scan with smart phone for service texts)

Orthros, part 1



Orthros, part 2



Divine Liturgy



Upcoming Schedule

<i>Today, November 16</i>	9:15am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy on the Feast Day of the Holy Evangelist Matthew Sunday School for the Youth after Holy Communion Honoring of Archangel Michael Award Recipients (Pete and Toula Tsamolias) Coffee Fellowship in the Parish House after the Liturgy 12:45pm Bible Study
<i>Tuesday, November 18</i>	6:30pm Parish Council Meeting
<i>Wednesday, November 19</i>	3:00pm Blood Drive (until 7:00pm) 5:30pm Vespers 6:30pm Introduction to the Orthodox Church Class in the Church
<i>Thursday, November 20</i>	10:00am Orthodox Book Study at Taste and See in Macon 9:00pm Holy Vigil for the Entrance of the Theotokos (until approx. 12:30am)
<i>Saturday, November 22</i>	2:30pm Holy Baptism of Julian Fuertes 4:00pm Byzantine Chant Class 5:00pm Great Vespers
<i>Sunday, November 23</i>	9:15am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy on the 9 th Sunday of Luke Sunday School for the Youth after Holy Communion 40-Day Memorial for George Poulos at the end of the Liturgy Coffee Fellowship after the Liturgy in the Parish House 1:00pm Youth Greek School (orientation)
<i>Tuesday, November 25</i>	9:30am Divine Liturgy for the Feast of St. Katherine the Great Martyr
<i>Thurs, Nov 27+Fri, Nov 28</i>	Thanksgiving Holiday - OFFICE CLOSED
<i>Sunday, November 30</i>	9:15am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy on the Feast Day of the Holy Evangelist Matthew Sunday School for the Youth after Holy Communion 40 Day Blessing of Antigone Michalakis and baby Castor Coffee Fellowship in the Parish House after the Liturgy 12:45pm Bible Study
<i>Monday, December 1</i>	Winter Youth Rally Registration Closes
<i>Wednesday, December 3</i>	5:30pm Great Vespers honoring Sts. Barbara and John of Damascus 6:30pm Introduction to the Orthodox Church Class
<i>Thursday, December 4</i>	10:00am Orthodox Book Study at Taste and See in Macon
<i>Saturday, December 6</i>	9:30am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy on the Feast Day of St. Nicholas of Myra Christmas Caroling with the Choir and Youth after the Liturgy
Upcoming Epistle Readers: (11/23) Chad Ridley, Sarah Drakopoulos; (11/30) Kostas Iakovides, Chrissy Zdrakas Upcoming PC Member On-Duty: (11/23) David Zoumberis; (11/30) Chad Ridley; (12/7) Maria Spicer; (12/14) Sarah Upcoming Ushers: (11/19) Charles G.; (11/20) OPEN; (11/22) Joanna P.; (11/23) Haris S., David Z.; (11/25) OPEN Upcoming Video Operators: (11/20) Natalia; (11/23) Gray/David N; (11/30) Joanna P.; (12/5) Norm; (12/7) Cristina Fellowship Hosts: (11/23) Haris Sorovigas; (11/30) Mariana Filimon; (12/7) Hazel Dunbar; (12/14) Rodica Cazacu	

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 ὠρούμενος 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 λαὸν σου καὶ εὐλόγησον
τὴν κληρονομίαν σου.*

*Στίχ. Πρὸς σέ, Κύριε, κεκραῶμαι, ὁ Θεός
μου.*

+++

*Πρὸς Ρωμαίους Ἐπιστολῆς Παύλου τὸ
ἀνάγνωσμα.*

+++

Ἀδελφοί, λέγει ἡ γραφή· πᾶς ὁ πιστεύων ἐπὶ τῷ Θεῷ οὐ καταισχνυθήσεται. οὐ γὰρ ἔστι διαστολή Ἰουδαίου τε καὶ Ἑλλήνου· ὁ γὰρ αὐτὸς Κύριος πάντων, πλουτῶν εἰς πάντας τοὺς ἐπικαλουμένους αὐτόν· πᾶς γὰρ ὃς ἂν ἐπικαλέσῃται τὸ ὄνομα Κυρίου σωθήσεται. πῶς οὖν ἐπικαλέσονται εἰς ὃν οὐκ ἐπίστευσαν; πῶς δὲ πιστεύσουσιν οὗ οὐκ ἤκουσαν; πῶς δὲ ἀκούσουσι χωρὶς κηρύσσοντος; πῶς δὲ κηρύξουσιν ἐὰν μὴ ἀποσταλῶσι; καθὼς γέγραπται· ὡς ὠραῖοι οἱ πόδες τῶν εὐαγγελιζομένων εἰρήνην, τῶν εὐαγγελιζομένων τὰ ἀγαθὰ! Ἄλλ' οὐ πάντες ὑπήκουσαν τῷ εὐαγγελίῳ· Ἡσαΐας γὰρ λέγει· Κύριε, τίς ἐπίστευσε τῇ ἀκοῇ ἡμῶν; ἄρα ἡ πίστις ἐξ ἀκοῆς, ἡ δὲ ἀκοή διὰ ῥήματος Θεοῦ. ἀλλὰ λέγω, μὴ οὐκ ἤκουσαν; μενοῦνγε εἰς πᾶσαν τὴν γῆν ἐξῆλθεν ὁ φθόγγος αὐτῶν, καὶ εἰς τὰ πέρατα τῆς οἰκουμένης τὰ ῥήματα αὐτῶν. ἀλλὰ λέγω, μὴ οὐκ ἔγνω Ἰσραὴλ; πρῶτος Μωϋσῆς λέγει· ἐγὼ παραζηλώσω ὑμᾶς ἐπ' οὐκ ἔθνει, ἐπὶ ἔθνει ἀσυνέτῳ παροργιῶ ὑμᾶς. Ἡσαΐας δὲ ἀποτολμᾷ καὶ λέγει· εὐρέθην τοῖς ἐμὲ μὴ ζητοῦσιν, ἐμφανῆς ἐγενόμην τοῖς ἐμὲ μὴ ἐπερωτῶσι. πρὸς δὲ τὸν Ἰσραὴλ λέγει· ὄλην τὴν ἡμέραν ἐξεπέτασα τὰς χεῖράς μου πρὸς λαὸν ἀπειθοῦντα καὶ ἀντιλέγοντα. Λέγω οὖν, μὴ ἀπόσωτο ὁ Θεὸς τὸν λαὸν αὐτοῦ; μὴ γένοιτο· καὶ γὰρ ἐγὼ Ἰσραηλίτης εἰμί, ἐκ σπέρματος Ἀβραάμ, φυλῆς Βενιαμίν. οὐκ ἀπόσωτο ὁ Θεὸς τὸν λαὸν αὐτοῦ ὃν προέγνω.

*O Lord, save Your people, and bless Your
inheritance.*

Verse: To You, O Lord, I cry; O my God.

+++

*The reading is from Paul's Letter to the
Romans. (10:11-21, 11: 1-2)*

+++

Brethren, the scripture says, "No one who believes in God will be put to shame." For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and bestows his riches upon all who call upon him. For, "every one who calls upon the name of the Lord will be saved." But how are men to call upon him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without a preacher? And how can men preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach good news!" But they have not all obeyed the gospel; for Isaiah says, "Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?" So faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes by the preaching of Christ. But I ask, have they not heard? Indeed they have; for "Their voice has gone out to all the earth, and their words to the ends of the world." Again I ask, did Israel not understand? First Moses says, "I will make you jealous of those who are not a nation; with a foolish nation I will make you angry." Then Isaiah is so bold as to say, "I have been found by those who did not seek me; I have shown myself to those who did not ask for me." But of Israel he says, "All day long I have held out my hands to a disobedient and contrary people." I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew.

The Holy Gospel Reading according to St. Matthew (9:9-13)

Sunday of St. Matthew the Apostle & Evangelist

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ παράγων ὁ Ἰησοῦς εἶδεν ἄνθρωπον καθήμενον ἐπὶ τὸ τελώνιον, Ματθαῖον λεγόμενον, καὶ λέγει αὐτῷ· ἀκολούθει μοι. καὶ ἀναστὰς ἠκολούθησεν αὐτῷ. Καὶ ἐγένετο αὐτοῦ ἀνακειμένου ἐν τῇ οἰκίᾳ, καὶ ἰδοὺ πολλοὶ τελῶναι καὶ ἁμαρτωλοὶ ἐλθόντες συνανέκειντο τῷ Ἰησοῦ καὶ τοῖς μαθηταῖς αὐτοῦ. καὶ ἰδόντες οἱ Φαρισαῖοι εἶπον τοῖς μαθηταῖς αὐτοῦ· διατί μετὰ τῶν τελωνῶν καὶ ἁμαρτωλῶν ἐσθίει ὁ διδάσκαλος ὑμῶν; ὁ δὲ Ἰησοῦς ἀκούσας εἶπεν αὐτοῖς· οὐ χρείαν ἔχουσιν οἱ ἰσχύοντες ἰατροῦ, ἀλλ' οἱ κακῶς ἔχοντες. πορευθέντες δὲ μάθετε τί ἐστὶν ἔλεον θέλω καὶ οὐ θυσίαν. οὐ γὰρ ἦλθον καλέσαι δικαίους, ἀλλὰ ἁμαρτωλοὺς εἰς μετάνοιαν.

At that time, as Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax office; and he said to him, "Follow me." And he rose and followed him. And as he sat at table in the house, behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and sat down with Jesus and his disciples. And when the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" But when he heard it, he said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. Go and learn what this means, 'I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.'" For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."

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 November 16, 2025

Ushers on Duty: Cleo Bennette, Nik Poulos

Video: David Z. **Altar Servers:** All Adult/Youth Servers

Epistle Readers: Haris Sorovigas (Greek); Cleo Bennette (English)

Fellowship Host (Thank You!): Juliana Gordy

PC Member On-Duty: Natalia Saratsiotis



Today our Holy Orthodox Church commemorates:

- + The Holy Apostle and Evangelist Matthew (Ματθαίος) (+60)

The holy, glorious and all-laudable Apostle and Evangelist Matthew is the author of the Gospel of Matthew and one of the Twelve Apostles. Matthew was originally called Levi. He was the son of Alphaeus and was by profession a publican, or tax-collector, at Capernaum. On one occasion Jesus, coming up from the side of the lake, passed the custom-house where Matthew was seated and said to him, "Follow me." Matthew arose and followed Christ, becoming his disciple (Matthew 9:9). He changed his name to reflect his new calling. "Matthew" means "Gift of the Lord."

The same day on which Jesus called him he made a "great feast" (Luke 5:29), a farewell feast, to which he invited Jesus and his disciples and probably also many of his old associates. The last notice of him in the New Testament is in Acts 1:13.

After the resurrection of our Lord, Matthew went and preached amongst the Jews. His Gospel was probably first written in Aramaic and later translated into Greek. Eventually Matthew went to Ethiopia to spread the gospel. There he was martyred by Fulvian, the ruler of the region, by being set on fire. After Matthew willingly gave up his soul to the Lord, his body was put in a coffin and cast into the sea. It washed up at the site of the church he had built. Fulvian, Matthew's persecutor, immediately repented of his deed, renounced his position of worldly power, and was made a presbyter by the Bishop Platon (or Plato). Once Platon died, the apostle appeared to the priest (who had taken the name Matthew as well) and told him to assume the bishop's throne.

- + The Virgin-Martyr Iphigenia of Ethiopia (Ιφιγένεια) (+1st Century)
- + The New Hieromartyr Philoumenos (Φιλούμενος) of Jacob's Well (+1979)

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 (Αγγελικαί δυνάμεις, Plagal Second Mode):

When the angelic powers appeared at Your tomb, the soldiers guarding it feared and became as dead. And standing by the sepulcher was Mary, who was seeking Your immaculate body. Unassailed by Hades, You divested it of spoils. Then You met the Virgin. You granted life. O Lord, risen from the dead, glory to You! (Sung before and after the Small Entrance. Greek Text found in hymnal on pg. 118)

- Hymn of St. Matthew (Απόστολε Αγιε, Third Mode):

O holy Apostle and Evangelist Matthew, 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)

- The Kontakion of the Entrance of the Theotokos (Ο καθαρώτατος ναός, Fourth Mode):

The Savior's most pure and immaculate temple, the very precious bridal chamber and Virgin, who is the sacred treasure of the glory of God, on this day is introduced into the House of the Lord, and with herself she brings the grace in the divine Spirit. She is extolled by the Angels of God. A heavenly tabernacle is she. (Greek Text found in Hymnal on pg. 236)

Guidance, Prayer Requests, and Announcements

This Week's Daily Commemorations,

Fasting Guidance and Scripture Readings:

Sunday, November 16: St. Matthew the Evangelist

Fish, Oil + Wine

Matthew 28:16-20; Romans 10:11-21, 11:1-2; Matthew 9:9-13

Monday, November 17: St. Gregory the Wonderworker

Fish, Oil + Wine

I Corinthians 12:7-11; Luke 14:1, 12-15

Tuesday, November 18: St. Plato of Ancyra

Fish, Oil + Wine

I Thessalonians 3:8-13; Luke 14: 25-35

Wednesday, November 19: Prophet Obadiah

Strict Fast

I Thessalonians 4:1-12; Luke 15:1-10

Thursday, November 20: Forefeast of the Entrance

Fish, Oil + Wine

I Thessalonians 4:18-5:10; Luke 16: 1-9

Friday, November 21: Entrance of the Theotokos

Fish, Oil + Wine

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

Saturday, November 22: St. Philemon the Apostle

Fish, Oil + Wine

Philemon 1:1-25; Luke 9:57-62

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, Teri, Barbara

Prayers for those recently reposed:

George (+October 14), Leo (+October 26), Steven (+October 29)

Prayers for expecting mothers:

Amanda, Betty (baby born 11/12), Maggie

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:

Adam, Alexander, Amanda, Aryn, Avery, Billy, Bobbie, Cherish, Dakota, Daniel, Darryl, Ecaterina, Gavin, Hannah, Jessica, John, Julian, Kyle, Macayla, Maegan, Max, Mary Emma, Nate, Noah, Ron, Sarah, 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 the Wonderworker (honored this week on November 17), in a homily written in 262 AD said the following about the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary (honoring her Entrance into the Temple this week): "The Holy Virgin herself is both an honorable Temple of God and a shrine made pure, a golden altar of burnt offerings, by reason of her surpassing purity, 'She is the door which looks eastward' (Ezekiel 44) and by the comings and goings forth, the whole earth is illuminated... She is the boast of virgins and the joy of mothers; the declaration of archangels, even as it was

spoken: 'Be thou glad and rejoice, the Lord is with thee!'"

Upcoming Celebrations This Week

Name Days—Chronia Polla, Many Years!

November 16: Matthew Deskins

Birthdays—Happy Birthday!

November 18: John Paul Syrbeyes

November 20: Danae Michalakis

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:

* If you would like to participate in the **2025 Christmas Card & Poinsettias**, please scan the QR Code to submit your name. The deadline to participate in the Christmas Card is **TODAY** and Poinsettias is December 15th. For more information, contact Natalia Saratsiotis or Cristina Lekas.

* The next **Introduction to the Orthodox Church** class will take place **this coming Wednesday, November 19 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.

* 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. Even if you do not have the book, feel free to join us for the discussion! Hope to see you at Taste and See in Downtown Macon on Thursday at 10:00am!

* The **Festival Chairmen are asking for help** on Sunday, December 7th after the Divine Liturgy. We will be reorganizing the back building and preparing it to be ready for next year's Festival. Please be sure to bring a change of clothes.

* **Philoptochos Holiday Pastry** orders are due **TODAY**. Be sure to check this off your list. Think about neighbors, business reps, social gatherings, teachers or your own worthy table and support our philanthropic Philoptochos work at the same time. Contact Presytera Stacey (770-827-7145) if you need help ordering.

* The Parish Council will have their monthly meeting this Tuesday, December 18th at 6:30pm. If you are a **Ministry Chairman**, please contact your liaison by tomorrow (Monday).

* There will be a **Red Cross Blood Drive** this Wednesday in the Parish House from 3-7pm. Please consider donating blood. If you are interested and need help signing up, please contact Natalia Saratsiotis.

* **Greek School:** For the Youth, Greek School is going to begin anew next Sunday, November 23 with an introductory class meeting at 1:00pm. We thank Haris Sorovigas for offering to lead this class. For the Adults, if you are interested in learning Greek, please contact Maria Bronisevsky by text message at 704-923-9881.