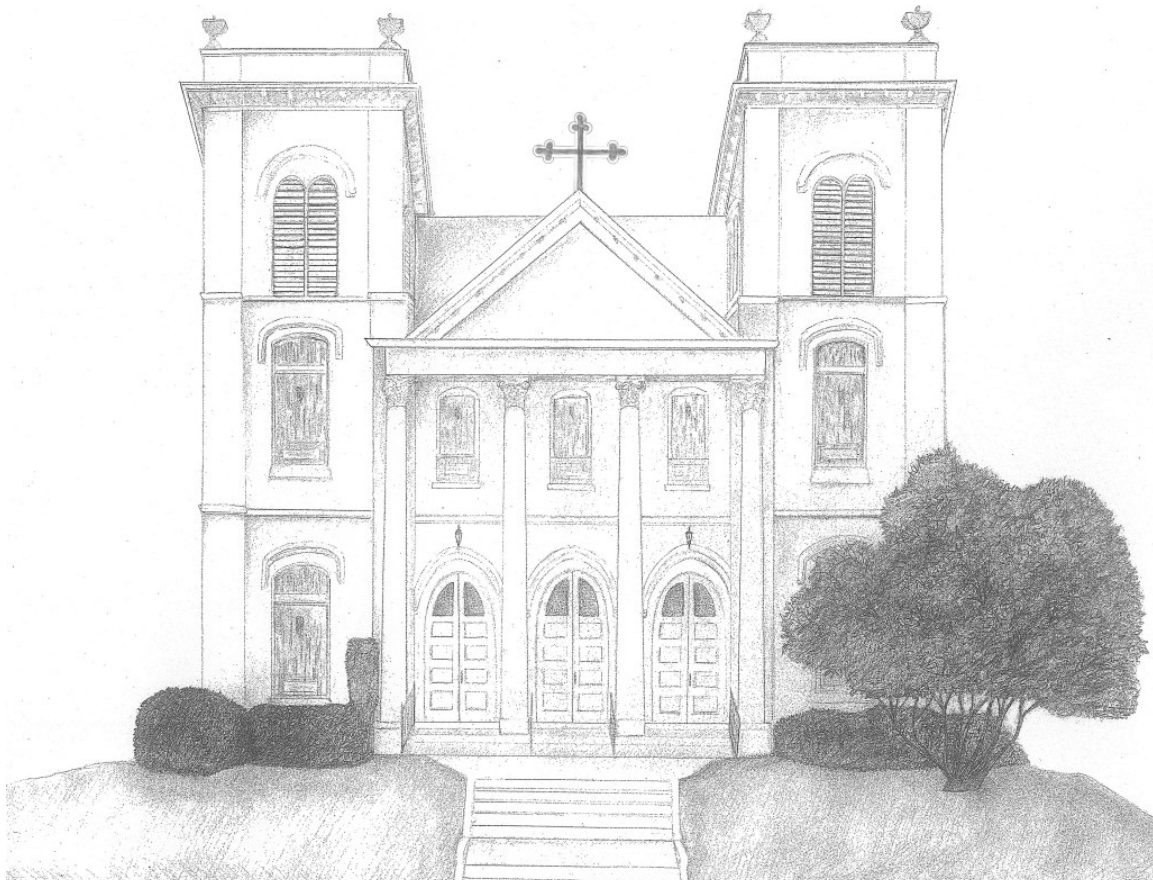




HOLY CROSS

GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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

Sunday, November 2, 2025

Fifth Sunday of Luke

St. Elpidophoros and those with him

Eothinon/Orthros Gospel: Tenthj (John 21:1-14)

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, 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
Pumpkin Decorating for Youth following Coffee Fellowship

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

Wednesday, November 12

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

Thursday, November 13

10:30am Orthodox Book Study at Taste and See in Macon

Friday, November 14

9:30am Orthros
10:30am Divine Liturgy on the Feast Day of the Holy Apostle Philip

Saturday, November 15

Beginning of the Nativity Fast

Sunday, November 16

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

Tuesday, November 18

6:30pm Parish Council Meeting

Upcoming Epistle Readers: (11/9) George Saratsiotis, Caroline Saratsiotis; (11/16) Kostas Iakovidis, Cleo Bennette
Upcoming PC Member On-Duty: (11/9) Gray Yates; (11/16) Natalia Saratsiotis; (11/23) David Zoumberis
Upcoming Ushers: (11/5) Charles G.; (11/6) Haris; (11/9) Nic+Maris S.; (11/10) Cristina; (11/12) Charles G.; (11/14) Eleni
Upcoming Video Operators: (11/9) Cristina L; (11/14) Norm A; (11/16) David Z.; (11/20) Natalia; (11/23) Gray/David N
Fellowship Hosts: (11/9) Youth Potluck; (11/16) Juliana Gordy; (11/23) Haris Sorovigas; (11/30) Mariana Filimon

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

Ὡς ἐμεγαλύνθη τὰ ἔργα σου, Κύριε·
πάντα ἐν σοφίᾳ ἐποίησας.

Στίχ. Εὐλόγει, ἡ ψυχὴ μου, τὸν
Κύριον. Κύριε ὁ Θεός μου,
ἐμεγαλύνθης σφόδρα.

+++

Πρὸς Γαλάτας Ἐπιστολῆς
Παύλου τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα.

+++

Ἀδελφοί, εἰδότες ὅτι οὐ δικαιоῦται ἄνθρωπος ἐξ ἔργων νόμου ἐὰν μὴ διὰ πίστεως Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ, καὶ ἡμεῖς εἰς Χριστὸν Ἰησοῦν ἐπιστεύσαμεν, ἵνα δικαιωθῶμεν ἐκ πίστεως Χριστοῦ καὶ οὐκ ἐξ ἔργων νόμου, διότι οὐ δικαιωθήσεται ἐξ ἔργων νόμου πᾶσα σὰρξ. εἰ δὲ ζητοῦντες δικαιωθῆναι ἐν Χριστῷ εὐρέθημεν καὶ αὐτοὶ ἁμαρτωλοί, ἄρα Χριστὸς ἁμαρτίας διάκονος; μὴ γένοιτο. εἰ γὰρ ἃ κατέλυσα ταῦτα πάλιν οἰκοδομῶ, παραβάτην ἐμαυτὸν συνίστημι. ἐγὼ γὰρ διὰ νόμου νόμῳ ἀπέθανον, ἵνα Θεῷ ζήσω. Χριστῷ συνεσταύρωμαι· ζῶ δὲ οὐκέτι ἐγώ, ζῇ δὲ ἐν ἐμοὶ Χριστός· ὁ δὲ νῦν ζῶ ἐν σαρκί, ἐν πίστει ζῶ τῇ τοῦ υἱοῦ τοῦ Θεοῦ τοῦ ἀγαπήσαντός με καὶ παραδόντος ἑαυτὸν ὑπὲρ ἐμοῦ.

O Lord, Your works shall be
magnified greatly; You made all
things in wisdom.

Verse: Bless the Lord, O my soul.
O Lord my God, You are
magnified exceedingly.

+++

The reading is from Paul's Letter
to the Galatians. (2:16-20)

+++

Brethren, you know that a man is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ, and not by works of the law, because by works of the law shall no one be justified. But if, in our endeavor to be justified in Christ, we ourselves were found to be sinners, is Christ then an agent of sin? Certainly not! But if I build up again those things which I tore down, then I prove myself a transgressor. For I through the law died to the law, that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me; and the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

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

Fifth Sunday of Luke

Εἶπεν ὁ Κύριος· Ἄνθρωπος δέ τις ἦν πλούσιος, καὶ ἐνεδιδύσκετο πορφύραν καὶ βύσσον εὐφραινόμενος καθ' ἡμέραν λαμπρῶς. πτωχὸς δέ τις ἦν ὀνόματι Λάζαρος, ὃς ἐβέβλητο πρὸς τὸν πυλῶνα αὐτοῦ ἡλκωμένος καὶ ἐπιθυμῶν χορτασθῆναι ἀπὸ τῶν ψιχίων τῶν πιπτόντων ἀπὸ τῆς τραπέζης τοῦ πλουσίου· ἀλλὰ καὶ οἱ κύνες ἐρχόμενοι ἀπέλειχον τὰ ἔλκη αὐτοῦ. ἐγένετο δὲ ἀποθανεῖν τὸν πτωχὸν καὶ ἀπενεχθῆναι αὐτὸν ὑπὸ τῶν ἀγγέλων εἰς τὸν κόλπον Ἀβραάμ· ἀπέθανε δὲ καὶ ὁ πλούσιος καὶ ἐτάφη. καὶ ἐν τῷ ἅδῃ ἐπάρας τοὺς ὀφθαλμοὺς αὐτοῦ, ὑπάρχων ἐν βασάνοις, ὁρᾷ τὸν Ἀβραάμ ἀπὸ μακρόθεν καὶ Λάζαρον ἐν τοῖς κόλποις αὐτοῦ. καὶ αὐτὸς φωνήσας εἶπε· πάτερ Ἀβραάμ, ἐλέησόν με καὶ πέμψον Λάζαρον ἵνα βάψῃ τὸ ἄκρον τοῦ δακτύλου αὐτοῦ ὕδατος καὶ καταψύξῃ τὴν γλῶσσάν μου, ὅτι ὀδυνῶμαι ἐν τῇ φλογὶ ταύτῃ. εἶπε δὲ Ἀβραάμ· τέκνον, μνήσθητι ὅτι ἀπέλαβες σὺ τὰ ἀγαθὰ σου ἐν τῇ ζωῇ σου, καὶ Λάζαρος ὁμοίως τὰ κακά· νῦν δὲ ὧδε παρακαλεῖται, σὺ δὲ ὀδυνᾶσαι· καὶ ἐπὶ πᾶσι τούτοις μεταξὺ ἡμῶν καὶ ὑμῶν χάσμα μέγα ἐστήρικται, ὅπως οἱ θέλοντες διαβῆναι ἔνθεν πρὸς ὑμᾶς μὴ δύνωνται, μηδὲ οἱ ἐκεῖθεν πρὸς ἡμᾶς διαπερῶσιν. εἶπε δέ· ἐρωτῶ οὖν σε, πάτερ, ἵνα πέμψῃς αὐτὸν εἰς τὸν οἶκον τοῦ πατρός μου· ἔχω γὰρ πέντε ἀδελφούς· ὅπως διαμαρτύρηται αὐτοῖς, ἵνα μὴ καὶ αὐτοὶ ἔλθωσιν εἰς τὸν τόπον τοῦτον τῆς βασάνου. λέγει αὐτῷ Ἀβραάμ· ἔχουσι Μωϋσέα καὶ τοὺς προφῆτας· ἀκουσάτωσαν αὐτῶν. ὁ δὲ εἶπεν· οὐχί, πάτερ Ἀβραάμ, ἀλλ' ἐάν τις ἀπὸ νεκρῶν πορευθῇ πρὸς αὐτούς, μετανοήσουσιν. εἶπε δὲ αὐτῷ· εἰ Μωϋσέως καὶ τῶν προφητῶν οὐκ ἀκούουσιν, οὐδὲ ἐάν τις ἐκ νεκρῶν ἀναστῇ πεισθήσονται.

The Lord said, “There was a rich man, who was clothed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, full of sores, who desired to be fed with what fell from the rich man’s table; moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham’s bosom. The rich man also died and was buried; and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes, and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus in his bosom. And he called out, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy upon me, and send Lazarus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in anguish in this flame.’ But Abraham said, ‘Son, remember that you in your lifetime received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in anguish. And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, in order that those who would pass from here to you may not be able, and none may cross from there to us.’ And he said, ‘Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father’s house, for I have five brothers, so that he may warn them, lest they also come into this place of torment.’ But Abraham said, ‘They have Moses, and the prophets; let them hear them.’ And he said, ‘No, father Abraham; but if some one goes to them from the dead, they will repent.’ He said to them, ‘If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced if some one should rise from the dead.’”

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 2, 2025

Ushers on Duty: Sarah Drakopoulos, Haris Sorovigas

Video: Natalia S.

Altar Servers: All Adult/Youth Servers

Epistle Readers: Aleca Hortman (Greek); Nicholas True (English)

Fellowship Host (Thank You!): Sarah Drakopoulos

PC Member On-Duty: Jim Lekas



Today our Holy Orthodox Church commemorates:

- + The Holy Martyrs Elpidophoros (Ελπιδοφόρος), Acindynos (Ακινδυνος), Pegasios (Πηγασιος), Aphthonios (Αφθόνιος), and Anempodistos (Ανεμπότιστος) (+330)

These Martyrs contested in Persia about the year 330, in the reign of Sapor (Shapur) II, King of Persia (325-379). Acindynus, Pegasios, and Anempodistus, Persian Christians, confessed Christ before the King, and were put to many torments. Aphthonius and Elpidophoros, drawn to the Faith of Christ through the Martyrs, were beheaded with another 7,000. Saints Acindynus, Pegasius, and Anempodistus were at last burned to death. Two churches were dedicated in their honour in Constantinople. As is often the case in church hymns, there is a play on the meanings of the Saints' names here. Acindynus means "unimperiled"; Pegasius is derived from pegazo--"to gush forth"; Aphthonius is derived from aphthonos -"abundant"; Elpidophoros means "hope-bearing"; Anempodistus means "unhindered." These are all Greek translations of their Persian names. **Today is the name day of the Archbishop America, His Eminence Elpidophoros.**

- + The Two Holy Martyred Senators of Sebasteia (+315)
- + The Holy Martyrs Evdioxios (Εὐδοξιος), Agaprios (Αγάπιος), and eight others (+315)
- + Our Devout Father Marcian (Μαρκιανός) of Cyrus (+388)
- + The Holy Martyrs Kyriaki (Κυριακή), Domnina (Δομνίνα), and Domna (Δόμνα)
- + Our Devout Father Anthony (Αντώνιος) the Confessor, Archbishop of Thessaloniki (+844)
- + The Holy Martyr Justus of Trieste (+293)
- + Our Devout Father Gabriel (Γαβριήλ), Confessor and Fool for Christ (+1995)
- + The Holy Martyrs Publius, Victor, Hermes, and Papias in North Africa

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 φαίδρόν, 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 St. Elpidophoros and those with him (Μαρτύρων ακαίμυες, Fourth Mode):

O steadfast and mighty Witnesses and Martyrs of Christ, * glorious Pegasios and wise Acindynos * and strong Anempodistos, * blessed Afthonios and divine Elpidophoros, * you five medaled Athletes ever guard us and save us * from perils and disasters when we pray 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, November 2: St. Elpidophoros and those with him

No Fasting

John 21:1-14; Galatians 2:16-20; Luke 16:19-31

Monday, November 3: St. Acepimas the Bishop

No Fasting

Colossians 2:13-20; Luke 11:29-33

Tuesday, November 4: St. Joannicius the Great

No Fasting

Colossians 2:20-23, 3:1-3; Luke 11:34-41

Wednesday, November 5: Sts. Galaktion and Episteme

Strict Fast

Colossians 3:17-25, 4:1; Luke 11:42-46

Thursday, November 6: St. Paul the Confessor

No Fasting

Hebrews 8:1-6; Luke 12:8-12

Friday, November 7: 33 Martyrs of Melitene

Strict Fast

Colossians 4:10-18; Luke 12:2-12

Saturday, November 8: Archangels Michael and Gabriel

No Fasting

Matthew 18:10-20; Hebrews 2:2-10; 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, Gabriel, Bradaen

Prayers for those recently reposed:

Tammy (+September 22), George (+October 14), Leo (+October 26)

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 Theophan the Recluse, on how we approach the Holy Mysteries/Sacraments, such as Holy Communion: "When going to the Holy Mysteries, go with simplicity of heart, in full faith that you will receive the Lord within yourself, and with the proper reverence towards this. What your state of mind should be after this, leave it to the Lord Himself. Many desire ahead of time to receive this or that from Holy Communion, and then, not seeing what they wanted, they are troubled, and even their faith in the power of the Mystery is shaken. The fault lies not with the Mystery, but with superficial assumptions. Do not promise yourself anything. Leave everything to the Lord, asking a single mercy from Him — to strengthen you in every kind of good so that you will be

acceptable to Him. The fruit of Communion most often has a taste of sweet peace in the heart; sometimes it brings enlightenment to thought and inspiration to one's devotion to the Lord; sometimes almost nothing is apparent, but afterward in one's affairs there is a noted a great strength and steadfastness in the diligence one has promised."

Upcoming Celebrations This Week

Name Days—Chronia Polla, Many Years!

November 8: Fr. Michael Vastakis, Mike Cantrell, Mikey Cantrell, Michael Drakopoulos, Sarah Drakopoulos, Angelika Passias

Birthdays—Happy Birthday!

November 2: Toulia Tsamolias

November 3: Eleni Grace Esquivel

November 4: James Stone

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:

* During the Liturgy today, there will be a **blessing of new Catechumens**. May God bless their Catechumenate.

* Thank you to everyone who came out to help before, during and after the festival. This is an event that takes all individuals together as the Body of Christ, and it is greatly appreciated! Be on the lookout for a Chairman wrap-up meeting coming soon.

* Following Coffee Hour today, the youth will be participating in the annual **pumpkin carving festivities**. All youth are invited to join in on the fun!

* 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 November 16th 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 5 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. If you have not contacted, please contact Natalia by emailing her at office@holycrossga.org so we can include you in the directory for next year. Also, please submit your celebrations (name days, birthday & anniversaries) to the office email if we do not have them in our database.

* 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 this Friday, November 7 at 6:00pm.

* **Fall General Assembly** will be taking place next 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.

* Philoptochos will be passing a **special tray to support the Ecumenical Patriarchate Fund**. Please see flyer insert for more information.