



HOLY CROSS

GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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

Sunday, December 21, 2025

Sunday before Nativity

St. Juliana the Martyr and those with her
Eothinon/Orthros Gospel: Siixth (Luke 24:36-53)

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, December 21

9:15am Orthros
10:30am Divine Liturgy on the Sunday before Nativity
Sunday School for the Youth after Holy Communion
Coffee Fellowship in the Parish House after the Liturgy
1:00pm Youth Greek School
5:30pm Vespers for the Forefeast of the Nativity
8:30am Royal Hours and Great Vespers for Christmas
5:30pm Orthros for the Feast of the Nativity of Christ (Christmas)
6:30pm Divine Liturgy for the Feast of the Nativity of Christ (Christmas)
Office Closed for Christmas Holiday

Tuesday, December 23

Wednesday, December 24

December 25-26

December 27-30

Sunday, December 28

Winter Youth Rally

Tuesday, December 30

Wednesday, December 31

Thursday, January 1

9:15am Orthros
10:30am Divine Liturgy on the Sunday after Nativity
Coffee Fellowship in the Parish House after the Liturgy
12:45pm Bible Study
6:30pm Introduction to the Orthodox Church Class (Zoom Only)
5:30pm Great Vespers honoring St. Basil the Great
Office Closed for News Years Day
10:00am Orthros
11:00am Divine Liturgy on the Feast Day of St. Basil the Great

Sunday, January 4

Monday, January 5

Tuesday, January 6

Wednesday, January 7

Thursday, January 8

Saturday, January 10

9:15am Orthros
10:30am Divine Liturgy on the Sunday before Theophany
Sunday School for the Youth after Holy Communion
Blessing of the Vasilopita at the end of the Liturgy
Coffee Fellowship in the Parish House after the Liturgy
9:30am Great (Royal) Hours of Theophany
6:00pm Vespers Liturgy of St. Basil and Blessing of the Waters
9:30am Orthros
10:30am Divine Liturgy for the Feast Day of Theophany (Epiphany)
Great Blessing of the Waters
5:30pm Divine Liturgy for the Feast Day of Saint John the Baptist
6:30pm Introduction to the Orthodox Church Class
10:00am Orthodox Book Study at Taste & See
4:00pm Byzantine Chant Class
5:00pm Great Vespers
6:30pm Festival Wrap-Up Meeting with All Chairmen

Upcoming Epistle Readers: (12/28) Pete Tsamolias, Charles Glotzbach; (1/4) Chad Ridley, Carter Zoumberis
Upcoming PC Member On-Duty: (12/28) Gray Yates; (1/4) Natalia S.; (1/11) Jim Lekas; (1/18) Maria Spicer
Upcoming Ushers: (12/23) Sarah; (12/24) AM-OPEN, PM-Charles, Nic (12/28) Nic, David Z; (12/31) Eleni
Upcoming Video Operators: (12/24AM) Daniel V.; (12/24PM) David Z.; (12/28) Gray, David N; (12/31) Norm
Fellowship Hosts: (12/28) Helen Vardy; ; (1/4) Philoptochos; (1/11) Georgia Saratsiotis; (1/18) Danai Esquivel

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.*

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*Πρὸς Ἑβραίους Ἐπιστολῆς Παύλου τὸ
ἀνάγνωσμα.*

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Ἀδελφοί, πίστει παρώκησεν Ἀβραὰμ εἰς τὴν γῆν τῆς ἐπαγγελίας ὡς ἄλλοτρίαν, ἐν σκηναῖς κατοικήσας μετὰ Ἰσαὰκ καὶ Ἰακώβ τῶν συγκληρονόμων τῆς ἐπαγγελίας τῆς αὐτῆς· ἐξεδέχετο γὰρ τὴν τοὺς θεμελίους ἔχουσαν πόλιν, ἧς τεχνίτης καὶ δημιουργὸς ὁ Θεός. Καὶ τί ἔτι λέγω; ἐπιλείπει γάρ με διηγούμενον ὁ χρόνος περὶ Γεδεών, Βαράκ τε καὶ Σαμψὼν καὶ Ἰεφθάε, Δαυὶδ τε καὶ Σαμουὴλ καὶ τῶν προφητῶν, οἱ διὰ πίστεως κατηγωνίσαντο βασιλείας, εἰργάσαντο δικαιοσύνην, ἐπέτυχον ἐπαγγελιῶν, ἔφραξαν στόματα λεόντων, ἔσβεσαν δύναμιν πυρός, ἔφυγον στόματα μαχαίρας, ἐνεδυναμώθησαν ἀπὸ ἀσθενείας, ἐγενήθησαν ἰσχυροὶ ἐν πολέμῳ, παρεμβολὰς ἐκλιναν ἄλλοτρίων· ἔλαβον γυναῖκες ἐξ ἀναστάσεως τοὺς νεκροὺς αὐτῶν· ἄλλοι δὲ ἐτυμπανίσθησαν, οὐ προσδεξάμενοι τὴν ἀπολύτρωσιν, ἵνα κρείττονος ἀναστάσεως τύχωσιν· ἕτεροι δὲ ἐμπαγμῶν καὶ μαστίγων πεῖραν ἔλαβον, ἔτι δὲ δεσμῶν καὶ φυλακῆς· ἐλιθάσθησαν, ἐπρίσθησαν, ἐπειράσθησαν, ἐν φόνῳ μαχαίρας ἀπέθανον, περιήλθον ἐν μηλωταῖς, ἐν αἰγείοις δέρμασιν, ὑστερούμενοι, θλιβόμενοι, κακουχούμενοι, ὧν οὐκ ἦν ἄξιος ὁ κόσμος, ἐν ἐρμηταῖς πλανώμενοι καὶ ὄρεσι καὶ σπηλαίοις καὶ ταῖς ὁπαῖς τῆς γῆς. Καὶ οὗτοι πάντες μαρτυρηθέντες διὰ τῆς πίστεως οὐκ ἐκομίσαντο τὴν ἐπαγγελίαν, τοῦ Θεοῦ περὶ ἡμῶν κρείττον τι προβλεψαμένου, ἵνα μὴ χωρὶς ἡμῶν τελειωθῶσι.

*Blessed are You,
O Lord God of our fathers.
Verse: For You are righteous
in all You did for us.*

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*The reading is from Paul’s Letter to the
Hebrews. (11:9-10, 32-40)*

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Brethren, by faith Abraham sojourned in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God. And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets — who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, received promises, stopped the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, that they might rise again to a better life. Others suffered mocking and scourging, and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were tempted, they were killed with the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, illtreated — of whom the world was not worthy — wandering over deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, though well attested by their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had foreseen something better for us, that apart from us they should not be made perfect.

The Holy Gospel Reading according to St. Matthew (1:1-25)

Sunday before Nativity

Βίβλος γενέσεως Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ, υἱοῦ Δαυὶδ υἱοῦ Ἀβραάμ. Ἀβραὰμ ἐγέννησε τὸν Ἰσαὰκ, Ἰσαὰκ δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Ἰακώβ, Ἰακώβ δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Ἰούδαν καὶ τοὺς ἀδελφοὺς αὐτοῦ, Ἰούδας δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Φαρὲς καὶ τὸν Ζαρά ἐκ τῆς Θάμαρ, Φαρὲς δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Ἑσρώμ, Ἑσρώμ δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Ἀράμ, Ἀράμ δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Ἀμιναδάβ, Ἀμιναδάβ δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Ναασσών, Ναασσών δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Σαλμών, Σαλμών δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Βοὺδ ἐκ τῆς Ῥαχάβ, Βοὺδ δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Ὠβιὴδ ἐκ τῆς Ῥούθ, Ὠβιὴδ δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Ἰεσσαί, Ἰεσσαὶ δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Δαυὶδ τὸν βασιλέα. Δαυὶδ δὲ ὁ βασιλεὺς ἐγέννησε τὸν Σολομῶνα ἐκ τῆς τοῦ Οὐρίου, Σολομῶν δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Ῥοβοάμ, Ῥοβοάμ δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Ἀβιά, Ἀβιά δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Ἀσά, Ἀσά δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Ἰωσαφάτ, Ἰωσαφάτ δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Ἰωράμ, Ἰωράμ δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Ὀζιαν, Ὀζίας δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Ἰωάθαμ, Ἰωάθαμ δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Ἀχαζ, Ἀχαζ δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Ἐζεκίαν, Ἐζεκίας δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Μανασσῆ, Μανασσῆ δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Ἀμών, Ἀμών δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Ἰωσίαν, Ἰωσίας δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Ἰεχονίαν καὶ τοὺς ἀδελφοὺς αὐτοῦ ἐπὶ τῇ μετοικεσίᾳ Βαβυλῶνος. Μετὰ δὲ τὴν μετοικεσίαν Βαβυλῶνος Ἰεχονίας ἐγέννησε τὸν Σαλαθιήλ, Σαλαθιήλ δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Ζοροβάβελ, Ζοροβάβελ δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Ἀβιούδ, Ἀβιούδ δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Ἐλιακεὶμ, Ἐλιακεὶμ δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Ἀζώρ, Ἀζώρ δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Σαδώκ, Σαδώκ δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Ἀχεὶμ, Ἀχεὶμ δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Ἐλιούδ, Ἐλιούδ δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Ἐλεάζαρ, Ἐλεάζαρ δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Ματθάν, Ματθάν δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Ἰακώβ, Ἰακώβ δὲ ἐγέννησε τὸν Ἰωσήφ τὸν ἄνδρα Μαρίας, ἐξ ἧς ἐγεννήθη Ἰησοὺς ὁ λεγόμενος Χριστός. Πᾶσαι οὖν αἱ γενεαὶ ἀπὸ Ἀβραάμ ἕως Δαυὶδ γενεαὶ δεκατέσσαρες, καὶ ἀπὸ Δαυὶδ ἕως τῆς μετοικεσίας Βαβυλῶνος γενεαὶ δεκατέσσαρες, καὶ ἀπὸ τῆς μετοικεσίας Βαβυλῶνος ἕως τοῦ Χριστοῦ γενεαὶ δεκατέσσαρες. Τοῦ δὲ Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ ἡ γέννησις οὕτως ἦν. μνηστευθείσης γὰρ τῆς μητρὸς αὐτοῦ Μαρίας τῷ Ἰωσήφ, πρὶν ἢ συνελθεῖν αὐτοὺς εὗρέθη ἐν γαστρὶ ἔχουσα ἐκ Πνεύματος Ἁγίου. Ἰωσήφ δὲ ὁ ἄνθρωπος αὐτῆς, δίκαιος ὢν καὶ μὴ θέλων αὐτὴν παραδειγματίσαι, ἐβουλόθη λάθρα ἀπολῦσαι αὐτήν. ταῦτα δὲ αὐτοῦ ἐνθυμηθέντος ἰδοὺ ἄγγελος Κυρίου κατ’ ὄναρ ἐφάνη αὐτῷ λέγων· Ἰωσήφ υἱὸς Δαυὶδ, μὴ φοβηθῆς παραλαβεῖν Μαριάμ τὴν γυναῖκά σου· τὸ γὰρ ἐν αὐτῇ γεννηθὲν ἐκ Πνεύματος ἁγίου ἐστὶν Ἁγίου. τέξεται δὲ υἱὸν καὶ καλέσεις τὸ ὄνομα αὐτοῦ Ἰησοῦν· αὐτὸς γὰρ σώσει τὸν λαὸν αὐτοῦ ἀπὸ τῶν ἁμαρτιῶν αὐτῶν. Τοῦτο δὲ ὅλον γέγονεν ἵνα πληρωθῇ τὸ ῥηθὲν ὑπὸ τοῦ Κυρίου διὰ τοῦ προφήτου λέγοντος· ἰδοὺ ἡ παρθένος ἐν γαστρὶ ἔξει καὶ τέξεται υἱόν, καὶ καλέσουσι τὸ ὄνομα αὐτοῦ Ἐμμανουήλ, ὃ ἐστὶ μεθερμηνεύμενον μεθ’ ἡμῶν ὁ Θεός. Διεγερθεὶς δὲ ὁ Ἰωσήφ ἀπὸ τοῦ ὕπνου ἐποίησεν ὡς προσέταξεν αὐτῷ ὁ ἄγγελος Κυρίου καὶ παρέλαβε τὴν γυναῖκα αὐτοῦ, καὶ οὐκ ἐγίνωσκεν αὐτήν ἕως οὗ ἔτεκε τὸν υἱὸν αὐτῆς τὸν πρωτότοκον, καὶ ἐκάλεσε τὸ ὄνομα αὐτοῦ Ἰησοῦν.

The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham. Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Aram, and Aram the father of Ammin’adab, and Ammin’adab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, and Salmon the father of Bo’az by Rahab, and Bo’az the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of David the king. And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uri’ah, and Solomon the father of Rehobo’ am, and Rehobo’am the father of Abi’jah, and Abi’jah the father of Asa, and Asa the father of Jehosh’aphat, and Jehosh’aphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzzi’ah, and Uzzi’ah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezeki’ah, and Hezeki’ah the father of Manas’seh, and Manas’seh the father of Amon, and Amon the father of Josi’ah, and Josi’ah the father of Jechoni’ah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon. And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoni’ah was the father of Salathiel, and Salathiel the father of Zerub’babel, and Zerub’babel the father of Abi’ud, and Abi’ud the father of Eli’akim, and Eli’akim the father of Azor, and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eli’ud, and Eli’ud the father of Elea’zar, and Elea’zar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called Christ. So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from David to the deportation to Babylon fourteen generations, and from the deportation to Babylon to the Christ fourteen generations. Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit; and her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit; she will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet: “Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and his name shall be called Emmanuel” (which means, God with us). When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took his wife, but knew her not until she had borne her firstborn son; and he called his name Jesus.

HOLY CROSS

GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

Rev. Fr. Theodore Ehmer

Προϊστάμενος/Presiding Priest

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Office Days: Tuesday through Friday; call or email Fr. for appointment

Holy Confession: call or email Fr. to schedule

Bulletin for the week of December 21, 2025

Ushers on Duty: Erick & Cheryl Schwartzkopf

Video: Natalia S.

Altar Servers: All Adult/Youth Servers

Epistle Readers: George Saratsiotis (Gr); Isabelle Saratsiotis (En)

Fellowship Host (Thank You!): Chad Ridley

PC Member On-Duty: Chad Ridley



Today our Holy Orthodox Church commemorates:

- + Sunday before the Nativity

On the Sunday that occurs on or immediately after the eighteenth of this month, we celebrate all those who from ages past have been well-pleasing to God, beginning from Adam even unto Joseph the Betrothed of the Most Holy Theotokos, according to genealogy, as the Evangelist Luke hath recorded historically (Luke 3:23-38); we also commemorate the Prophets and Prophetesses, and especially the Prophet Daniel and the Holy Three Children.

- + The Holy Martyrs Juilana (Ιουλιανή) and the Holy 500 Martyrs who believed through St. Juliana (+299)

Saint Juliana, who was from Nicomedia, lived during the years of Maximian and was the daughter of wealthy parents. They were pagans, but she was secretly a Christian. Without consulting her, her parents betrothed her to an idolater named Eleusius, who was a member of the Senate. She, not wishing to marry him, told him that unless he became eparch, she would not marry him. When he had obtained this position, she told him that unless he renounced the religion of the idols and became a Christian, she would have nothing to do with him. Eleusius then told Juliana's father of this. He attempted to turn her from the Faith of Christ, but when he saw that she could not change her constancy, he gave her up to the Eparch, Eleusius her betrothed, to be tried according to the law. When he could not persuade her to do his will, he subjected her to the most inhuman tortures and after imprisoning her, cast her into a furnace. But by the grace of God, the furnace was marvellously quenched. Seeing this, some five hundred men and one hundred and thirty women believed in Christ and were beheaded for His sake. After further torments, she was beheaded, in the year 299.

- + The Holy 130 Martyrs of Nicomedia (+299)

- + The Holy Martyr Themistocles (Θεμιστοκλής) in Myra (+251)

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 ουράνια, Third 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!” *(Greek Text found in hymnal on pg. 106)*

- *Hymn of the Forefeast of Christmas (Ετοιμάζου Βηθλεέμ, Fourth Mode):*

O Bethlehem, prepare, Eden is opened unto all. * And be ready, Ephrata, for the Tree of life * has in the grotto blossomed forth from the Virgin. * Indeed her womb is shown to be spiritually * a Paradise, in which is found the God-planted Tree. * And if we eat from it we shall live, and shall not die, as did Adam of old. * Christ is born, so that He might raise up * the formerly fallen image.

- *Hymn of the Fathers (Μεγάλα τα της πίστεως, Second Mode):*

Magnificent are the accomplishments of faith! The holy Three Servants greatly rejoiced, as they stood in the fountain of fire, as if beside the still waters; and the Prophet Daniel appeared to be a shepherd of lions, as if they were sheep. At their entreaties, O Christ God, save our souls.

- *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 Nativity of Christ (Η Παρθένος σήμερον τον προαιώνιον Λόγον, Third Mode):*

On this day the Virgin Maid * goes to the grotto to give birth * to the pre-eternal Word * in an ineffable manner. * Dance for joy, all the inhabited earth, on hearing. * Glorify along with Angels and with the shepherds * Him who willed that He appear as * a newborn Child, * the pre-eternal God. *(Greek Text found in Hymnal on pg. 240)*

Guidance, Prayer Requests, and Announcements

This Week's Daily Commemorations, Fasting Guidance and Scripture Readings:

Sunday, December 21: Sunday before the Nativity
Wine + Oil
Luke 24:36-53; Hebrews 11:9-10, 32-40; Matthew 11:1-25
Monday, December 22: St. Anastasia the Great Martyr
Strict Fast
Hebrews 3:5-11, 17-19; Mark 9:42-50, 10:1
Tuesday, December 23: Ten Martyrs of Crete
Strict Fast
Hebrews 4:1-13; Mark 10:2-12
Wednesday, December 24: Christmas Eve
Strict Fast
Hebrews 1:1-12; Luke 2:1-20
Thursday, December 25: Nativity of Christ (Christmas)
No Fasting
Matthew 1:18-25; Galatians 4:4-7; Matthew 2:1-12
Friday, December 26: Synaxis of the Holy Theotokos
No Fasting
Hebrews 2:11-18; Matthew 2:13-23
Saturday, December 27: St. Stephen the First Martyr
No Fasting
Acts 6:8-15, 7:1-5, 47-60; Matthew 12:15-21

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, Carolina, Maria, Laurie, Lindsey, Randy, Marina, Effie, Christina, Ashley, Brian, Bessie, Katerina, Karl, Colin, Mitch, Rinne, Michael, Christian, Paul, Lucas, 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, Taylor, Elizabeth, Rich, Penny

Prayers for those recently reposed:

Bonnie (+November 14), Delia (+November 19), George (+December 3), Debbie (+December 6)

Prayers for expecting mothers:

Amanda, Emily, Maggie, Kémie

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, 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:

Oliver Clement in his fine work *The Roots of Christian Mysticism* wrote the following about the Incarnation, God become Man at the Great Feast of Christmas: “The purpose of the incarnation is to establish full communion between God and humanity so that in Christ humanity may find adoption and immortality, often called ‘deification’ by the Fathers: not by emptying human nature but by fulfilling it in the divine life, since only in God is human nature truly itself.”

Upcoming Celebrations This Week

Name Days—Chronia Polla, Many Years!

December 22: Presvytera Stacey Ehmer
December 24: Eugenia Zoe Jones
December 25: Christina Danforth, Violet Christina Danforth, Gloria Anastasia Dixon, Chrissy Holland, Cristina Lekas, Christian Morris, Christine Nicholas, Chrissy Zdrakas
December 27: David Lee Bradford

Birthdays—Happy Birthday!

December 21: Tony Economopoulos
December 23: Logan Wells
December 26: John Cacavias, Kenneth Lawrence
December 27: Washington Morris

Anniversaries—Congratulations!

December 27: Katerina & Kostas Iakovidis

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

Announcements:

* **We welcome Fr. John Brown** of Holy Transfiguration Greek Orthodox Church in Marietta, Georgia who is leading us in the Divine Services today. Fr. Theodore will be out of town on vacation with family through tomorrow (Monday) evening.

* **2026 Stewardship Cards** were blessed a couple of Sundays ago. If you were unable to turn your card in, there is still time to make your commitment for 2026. If you have misplaced your card, you can locate an extra one in the Narthex or online.

* The next **Introduction to the Orthodox Church** class will take place **Tuesday, December 30 at 6:30pm on Zoom ONLY**. The topic for the next session will be our Orthodox Christian of the Holy Fathers of the Church.

* There will be a **Festival Wrap-Up Meeting** held on Saturday, January 10th after Great Vespers. If you are a chair of a booth or any other area, please plan to attend. Please let David Zoumberis know if you are able to attend so we can properly plan for dinner.

* **Philoptochos** is currently collecting items for the clinic at Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Elementary School. This is part of a national Philoptochos initiative-Operation Classroom. Please place your donations in the box located in the Narthex. Thank you for your support! The following items are needed: Acetaminophen and Ibuprofen (for ages 2-11), Pepto Bismol, Triple Antibiotic Ointment, Orajel, Alcohol Pads, Cotton Balls, 3 oz Water Cups, Sandwich and Gallon Sized Ziploc Bags.

* Be on the lookout for the sign-up for the **House Blessings** that will be taking place as per tradition after the Feast of Theophany on January 6. There will be sign-ups for dates and times throughout the months of January and February.

Merry Christmas!

Καλά Χριστούγεννα!