



HOLY CROSS

GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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

Sunday, December 7, 2025

10th Sunday of Luke

St. Ambrose of Milan

Eothinon/Orthros Gospel: Fourth (Luke 24:1-12)

Mode of the Week: First / Πρώτος

QR Codes (scan with smart phone for service texts)

Orthros, part 1



Orthros, part 2



Divine Liturgy



Upcoming Schedule

Today, December 7

9:15am Orthros
 10:30am Divine Liturgy on the 10th Sunday of Luke
 Sunday School for the Youth after Holy Communion
 2026 Stewardship Blessing at the end of the Liturgy with Parish Family Photo
 Parish Council Elections in the Parish House after the Liturgy
 Coffee Fellowship in the Parish House after the Liturgy
 Work Party in the Back Building and Pageant Practice for the Youth

Tuesday, December 9

6:30pm Parish Council Meeting

Wednesday, December 10

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

Thursday, December 11

10:00am Orthodox Book Study at Taste and See in Macon

Friday, December 12

9:30am Orthros
 10:30am Divine Liturgy on the Feast Day of St. Spyridon the Wonderworker

Saturday, December 13

9:00am Philoptochos Pastry Sale Pickup (until 11:00am)
 3:00pm Animal Blessing in the Church Courtyard
 4:00pm Byzantine Chant Class
 5:00pm Great Vespers

Sunday, December 14

9:15am Orthros
 10:30am Divine Liturgy on the Sunday of the Forefathers
 Memorial Service for members of the Ghigeanu and Cazacu family at the end of the Liturgy
 Christmas Pageant presented by the Youth at the end of the Liturgy
 Coffee Fellowship after the Pageant in the Parish House
 Bible Study

Sunday, 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
 Youth Greek School

Tuesday, December 23

5:30pm Vespers for the Forefeast of the Nativity

Wednesday, December 24

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)

December 25-26

Office Closed for Christmas Holiday

Upcoming Epistle Readers: (12/14) Haris Sorovigas, Chrissy Zdrakas; (12/21) George Saratsiotis, Isabelle Saratsiotis
Upcoming PC Member On-Duty: (12/14) Sarah Drakopoulos; (12/21) Chad Ridley; (12/28) Gray Yates; (1/4) Natalia
Upcoming Ushers: (12/10) Charles G; (12/12) Erick S; (12/13) Eleni+NormA.; (12/14) Sarah D., Haris S.
Upcoming Video Operators: (12/14) Natalia S.; (12/21) David Z.; (12/24AM) Daniel V.; (12/24PM) David Z.
Fellowship Hosts: (12/14) Rodica Cazacu; (12/21) Chad Ridley; (12/28) Helen Vardy; ; (1/4) Philoptochos

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

Γένοιτο, Κύριε, τὸ ἔλεός σου ἐφ' ἡμᾶς,
καθάπερ ἠλπίσαμεν ἐπὶ σέ.

Στίχ. Ἀγαλλιᾶσθε, δίκαιοι, ἐν Κυρίῳ·
τοῖς εὐθέσι πρέπει αἴνεσις.

+++

Πρὸς Ἐφεσίους Ἐπιστολῆς Παύλου τὸ
ἀνάγνωσμα.

+++

Ἀδελφοί, ὡς τέκνα φωτὸς περιπατεῖτε·
— ὁ γὰρ καρπὸς τοῦ Πνεύματος ἐν
πάσῃ ἀγαθωσύνῃ καὶ δικαιοσύνῃ καὶ
ἀληθείᾳ· — δοκιμάζοντες τί ἐστὶν
εὐάρεστον τῷ Κυρίῳ. καὶ μὴ
συγκοινωνεῖτε τοῖς ἔργοις τοῖς
ἀκάρποις τοῦ σκότους, μᾶλλον δὲ καὶ
ἐλέγχετε· τὰ γὰρ κρυφῆ γινόμενα ὑπ'
αὐτῶν αἰσχρόν ἐστι καὶ λέγειν· τὰ δὲ
πάντα ἐλεγχόμενα ὑπὸ τοῦ φωτὸς
φανερῶνται· πᾶν γὰρ τὸ φανερούμενον
φῶς ἐστὶ. διὸ λέγει· ἔγειρε ὁ καθεύδων
καὶ ἀνάστα ἐκ τῶν νεκρῶν, καὶ
ἐπιφάσει σοὶ ὁ Χριστός. Βλέπετε οὖν
πῶς ἀκριβῶς περιπατεῖτε, μὴ ὡς
ἄσοφοι, ἀλλ' ὡς σοφοί,
ἐξαγοραζόμενοι τὸν καιρὸν, ὅτι αἱ
ἡμέραι πονηραὶ εἰσι. διὰ τοῦτο μὴ
γίνεσθε ἄφρονες, ἀλλὰ συνιέντες τί τὸ
θέλημα τοῦ Κυρίου. καὶ μὴ
μεθύσκεσθε οἴνῳ, ἐν ᾧ ἐστὶν ἀσωτία,
ἀλλὰ πληροῦσθε ἐν Πνεύματι,
λαλοῦντες ἑαυτοῖς ψαλμοῖς καὶ ὕμνοις
καὶ ᾠδαῖς πνευματικαῖς, ἄδοντες καὶ
ψάλλοντες ἐν τῇ καρδίᾳ ὑμῶν τῷ
Κυρίῳ.

Let Your mercy, O Lord, be upon us,
as we hope in You.

Verse: Rejoice greatly in the Lord,
O righteous ones;
praise is fitting for the upright.

+++

The reading is from Paul's Letter to
the Ephesians. (5:8-19)

+++

Brethren, walk as children of light
(for the fruit of the Spirit is found in
all that is good and right and true),
and try to learn what is pleasing to
the Lord. Take no part in the
unfruitful works of darkness, but
instead expose them. For it is a
shame even to speak of the things
that they do in secret; but when
anything is exposed by the light it
becomes visible, for anything that
becomes visible is light. Therefore it
is said, "Awake, O sleeper, and arise
from the dead, and Christ shall give
you light." Look carefully then how
you walk, not as unwise men but as
wise, making the most of the time,
because the days are evil. Therefore
do not be foolish, but understand
what the will of the Lord is. And do
not get drunk with wine, for that is
debauchery; but be filled with the
Spirit, addressing one another in
psalms and hymns and spiritual
songs, singing and making melody to
the Lord with all your heart.

The Holy Gospel Reading according to St. Luke (13:10-17)

10th Sunday of Luke

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, ἣν διδάσκων ὁ
Ἰησοῦς ἐν μιᾷ τῶν συναγωγῶν ἐν
τοῖς σάββασι. καὶ ἰδοὺ γυνὴ ἦν
πνεῦμα ἔχουσα ἀσθενείας ἔτη δέκα
καὶ ὀκτώ, καὶ ἦν συγκύπτουσα καὶ
μὴ δυναμένη ἀνακῦψαι εἰς τὸ
παντελές. ἰδὼν δὲ αὐτὴν ὁ Ἰησοῦς
προσεφώνησε καὶ εἶπεν αὐτῇ·
γύναι, ἀπολέλυσαι τῆς ἀσθενείας
σου· καὶ ἐπέθηκεν αὐτῇ τὰς χεῖρας·
καὶ παραχρῆμα ἀνωρθώθη καὶ
ἐδόξαζε τὸν Θεόν. ἀποκριθεὶς δὲ ὁ
ἀρχισυνάγωγος, ἀγανακτῶν ὅτι τῷ
σαββάτῳ ἐθεράπευσεν ὁ Ἰησοῦς,
ἔλεγε τῷ ὄχλῳ· ἕξ ἡμέραι εἰσὶν ἐν
αἷς δεῖ ἐργάζεσθαι· ἐν ταύταις οὖν
ἐρχόμενοι θεραπεύεσθε, καὶ μὴ τῇ
ἡμέρᾳ τοῦ σαββάτου. ἀπεκρίθη οὖν
αὐτῷ ὁ Κύριος καὶ εἶπεν· ὑποκριτά,
ἕκαστος ὑμῶν τῷ σαββάτῳ οὐ λύει
τὸν βούν αὐτοῦ ἢ τὸν ὄνον ἀπὸ τῆς
φάτνης καὶ ἀπαγαγὼν ποτίζει;
ταύτην δέ, θυγατέρα Ἀβραάμ
οὕσαν, ἣν ἔδησεν ὁ σατανᾶς ἰδοὺ
δέκα καὶ ὀκτὼ ἔτη, οὐκ ἔδει
λυθῆναι ἀπὸ τοῦ δεσμοῦ τούτου τῇ
ἡμέρᾳ τοῦ σαββάτου; καὶ ταῦτα
λέγοντος αὐτοῦ κατησχύνοντο
πάντες οἱ ἀντικείμενοι αὐτῷ, καὶ
πᾶς ὁ ὄχλος ἔχαιρεν ἐπὶ πᾶσι τοῖς
ἐνδόξοις τοῖς γινομένοις ὑπ' αὐτοῦ.

At that time, Jesus was teaching in
one of the synagogues on the
sabbath. And there was a woman
who had a spirit of infirmity for
eighteen years; she was bent over
and could not fully straighten
herself. And when Jesus saw her,
he called her and said to her,
"Woman, you are freed from your
infirmity." And he laid his hands
upon her, and immediately she
was made straight, and she
praised God. But the ruler of the
synagogue, indignant because
Jesus had healed on the sabbath,
said to the people, "There are six
days on which work ought to be
done; come on those days and be
healed, and not on the sabbath
day." Then the Lord answered
him, "You hypocrites! Does not
each of you on the sabbath untie
his ox or his donkey from the
manger, and lead it away to water
it? And ought not this woman, a
daughter of Abraham whom Satan
bound for eighteen years, be
loosed from this bond on the
sabbath day?" As he said this, all
his adversaries were put to shame;
and all the people rejoiced at all
the glorious things that were done
by 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 December 7, 2025

Ushers on Duty: Jim Lekas, Haris Sorovigas

Video: Cristina L.

Altar Servers: All Adult/Youth Servers

Epistle Readers: Chad Ridley (Greek); Rene Esquivel (English)

Fellowship Host (Thank You!): Hazel Dunbar

PC Member On-Duty: Natalia Saratsiotis



Today our Holy Orthodox Church commemorates:

- + Our Devout Father Ambrose (Αμβρόσιος), Bishop of Milan (+397)

This Saint was born in Gaul in 340, and was a member of the Roman Senate. After the death of Auxentius, the Arian Bishop of Milan, a violent dispute arose among the Orthodox and Arians about who would succeed him. Ambrose, desiring as Governor of the province to restore the peace, attempted to mediate between them. As he spoke to the people, eloquently persuading them to elect a new bishop without tumult and disorder, a young child, inspired from on high, suddenly cried out "Ambrose, bishop!" To his astonishment and dismay, the people immediately took up this cry themselves, and over his many protests, he was raised to the episcopal throne of Milan on December 7, 374. A great Father of the Church, he wrote many works in Latin, and was both a tireless opponent of Arianism, and a fearless accuser of emperors when they transgressed the law of God. Having lived fifty-seven years, he reposed on April 4, on the eve of Pascha, in the year 397.

- + The Holy Martyr Athenodoros (Αθηνόδωρος, +304)
- + The Holy Martyr Dometios (Δομέτιος)
- + The Holy Martyrs Isidore (Ισιδώρος), Acepshimas (Ακεψιμάς), and Leo (Λέων)
- + Our Devout Father Ammoun (Αμμούν), Bishop of Nitria (+350)
- + The Holy Martyrs Gaianos (Γαιανός) and Gaius (Γάιος)
- + The Holy 300 Martyrs in Africa
- + Our Devout Father Ignatius (Ιγνάτιος) of Blachernae
- + Our Devout Father Paul (Παύλος) the Monk
- + The Holy Martyrs Priscus (Πρίσκο), Martin (Μαρτίνος), and Nicholas (Νικόλαος)

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 (Του λίθου σφραγισθέντος, First Mode):

The stone having been sealed by the Pharisees and chief priests, * and Your all-immaculate body being guarded by soldiers, * You rose on the third day, O Lord and Savior, granting life unto the world. * Then the powers of the heavens cried out to You, O Giver of Life, and shouted, * "Glory to Your resurrection, O Christ! * Glory to Your eternal rule! * Glory to Your plan for saving us, only benevolent God!" (Greek Text found in hymnal on pg. 98)

- 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 σήμερα 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 7: St. Ambrose of Milan

Fish, Oil + Wine

Luke 24:1-12; Ephesians 5:8-19; Luke 13:10-17

Monday, December 8: St. Patapius of Thebes

Fish, Oil + Wine

I Timothy 5:1-10; Luke 20:27-44

Tuesday, December 9: Conception of the Theotokos

Fish, Oil + Wine

Galatians 4:22-27; Luke 8:16-21

Wednesday, December 10: St. Menas of Alexandria

Strict Fast

I Timothy 5:22-25; 6:1-11; Luke 21:5-8, 10-11, 20-24

Thursday, December 11: St. Daniel the Stylite

Fish, Oil + Wine

I Timothy 6:17-21; Luke 21:28-33

Friday, December 12: St. Spyridon the Wonderworker

Wine + Oil

John 10:1-9; Ephesians 5:8-19; John 10:9-16

Saturday, December 13: St. Herman of Alaska

Oil + Wine

Galatians 5:22-26; 6:1-2; Luke 13:19-29

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, 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:

Steven (+October 29), Bonnie (+November 14), Delia (+November 19), George

Prayers for expecting mothers:

Amanda, Emily, 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, 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 Peter of Damascus, speaking to us about the necessity of self-reflection and repentance, even on a daily basis: "In the words of the psalmist, 'As you lie in bed, repent of what you say in your heart' (Ps. 4:4 LXX), that is, repent in the stillness of the night, remembering the lapses that occurred in the confusion of the day and disciplining yourself in hymns and spiritual songs (cf. Col. 3:16) – in other words, teaching yourself to persist in prayer and psalmody through

attentive meditation on what you read. For the practice of the moral virtues is effectuated by meditating on what has happened during the day, so that during the stillness of the night we can become aware of the sins we have committed and can grieve over them."

Upcoming Celebrations This Week

Name Days—Chronia Polla, Many Years!

December 9: Diane Berkner, Anna Kallergis, Cheryl Stefanis

December 12: Spyros Dermatas

Birthdays—Happy Birthdays!

December 7: Ray Vardy

December 8: Violet Danforth, Lilly Anne Syribeys

December 9: Henry Gordy, Nicholas Peterson, Tom Zdrakas

December 10: Spyros Dermatas

December 11: Denna Bradford, Donna Saranti

December 12: Father Michael Vastakis

December 13: Kostas Iakovidis

Anniversaries—Congratulations!

December 11: Jordan & Brad Perry

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

Announcements:

* Today is **Stewardship Sunday**. Please be sure to turn in your 2026 Commitment Card prior to Communion today so they will be included in the blessing at the end of Liturgy. Also, after you receive your Antidoron, please head to the front steps so we can take a Stewardship Family Picture.

* **Parish Council Elections** for the 2026-2027 will be held today after we take our Stewardship Family Picture until 2:00pm in the Parish House.

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

* **YOUTH:** We will be celebrating St. Nicholas today in Sunday School. Our one and only practice and "dress rehearsal" will be today for the Nativity Pageant next Sunday!

* The next **Introduction to the Orthodox Church** class will take place **Wednesday, December 10 at 6:30pm in the Chapel**. The topic for the next session will be our Orthodox Christian understanding of Salvation.

* The **Festival Chairmen are asking for help** today 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** 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.

* This coming Saturday, December 13 will be the annual **Blessing of the Animals** in the courtyard. Bring your beloved pet for a blessing!