



# HOLY CROSS

## GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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

### Sunday, January 18, 2026

12th Sunday of Luke

Sts. Athanasios and Cyril, Patriarchs of Alexandria

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

Mode of the Week: Grave / Βαρύς

QR Codes (scan with smart phone for service texts)

Orthros, part 1



Orthros, part 2



Divine Liturgy



### Upcoming Schedule

*Today, January 18*

9:15am Orthros  
10:30am Divine Liturgy on the Feast Day of Sts. Athanasios and Cyril  
Sunday School for the Youth after Holy Communion  
Blessing/Swearing-In of 2026 Parish Council  
Coffee Fellowship in the Parish House after the Liturgy  
Youth Activity—Ice Skating (after Church Activities)

*Monday, January 19*

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day — OFFICE CLOSED

*Wednesday, January 21*

3:00pm Blood Drive in the Parish House (until 7:00pm)  
5:30pm Vespers  
6:30pm Introduction to the Orthodox Church Class

*Thursday, January 22*

1:00pm Funeral and Burial of James Scarborough (at St. Innocent)

*Saturday, January 24*

5:00pm Readers Great Vespers

*Sunday, January 25*

9:15am Orthros  
10:30am Divine Liturgy on the 15th Sunday of Luke  
Sunday School for the Youth after Holy Communion  
40-day blessing of Emily Rivers and son Sebastian  
Coffee Fellowship in the Parish House after the Liturgy  
12:15pm Philoptochos Meeting in the Parish House  
12:45pm Bible Study  
1:00pm Youth Greek School

*Wednesday, January 28*

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

*Thursday, January 29*

10:00am Orthodox Book Study at Taste & See

*Friday, January 30*

9:30am Orthros  
10:30am Divine Liturgy on the Feast Day of the Three Hierarchs

*Saturday, January 31*

11:00am Baby Shower for Adam and Kemie Landin in the Parish House  
2:00pm Not-So-Young-Adult Outing at Mercer Basketball  
5:00pm Great Vespers

*Sunday, February 1*

9:15am Orthros  
10:30am Divine Liturgy on the Sunday of the Publican and Pharisee  
Sunday School for the Youth after Holy Communion  
Coffee Fellowship in the Parish House after the Liturgy  
1:00pm Youth Greek School  
2:00pm Great Vespers for the Feast Day of Ypapanti—Meeting of the Lord

*Monday, February 2*

9:30am Orthros  
10:30am Divine Liturgy for the Feast Day of Ypapanti—Meeting of the Lord

**Upcoming Epistle Readers:** (1/25) Pete Tsamolias, Cheryl Schwartzkopf; (2/1) Aleca Hortman, Nicholas True  
**Upcoming PC Member On-Duty:** (1/25) Asst. Treasurer; (2/1) Secretary; (2/8) Asst. Secretary; (2/15) Mem at Large  
**Upcoming Ushers:** (1/21) Cristina L.; (1/24+25) Erick, Cheryl S; (1/28) Maria S; (1/30) Norm+Eleni; (1/31) Maria S.  
**Upcoming Video Operators:** (1/25) David Z.; (1/30) Cristina; (2/1) AM-Gray/David N.; PM-Natalia; (2/2) Cristina  
**Fellowship Hosts:** (1/25) Haris Sorovigas; (2/1) Natalia Saratsiotis; (2/8) Cleo Bennette; (2/15) Maria McCluskey

### 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.

+++

Πρὸς Ἑβραίους Ἐπιστολῆς Παύλου τὸ  
ἀνάγνωσμα.

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Ἀδελφοί, μνημονεύετε τῶν ἡγουμένων  
ὑμῶν, οἵτινες ἐλάλησαν ὑμῖν τὸν λόγον  
τοῦ Θεοῦ, ὧν ἀναθεωροῦντες τὴν  
ἐκβασιν τῆς ἀναστροφῆς μιμεῖσθε τὴν  
πίστιν. Ἰησοῦς Χριστὸς χθὲς καὶ  
σήμερον ὁ αὐτὸς καὶ εἰς τοὺς αἰῶνας.  
διδασκαίς ποικίλαις καὶ ξέναις μὴ  
παραφέρεσθε· καλὸν γὰρ χάριτι  
βεβαιοῦσθαι τὴν καρδίαν, οὐ βρώμασιν,  
ἐν οἷς οὐκ ὠφελήθησαν οἱ  
περιπατήσαντες. ἔχομεν θυσιαστήριον  
ἐξ οὗ φαγεῖν οὐκ ἔχουσιν ἐξουσίαν οἱ τῇ  
σκηνῇ λατρεύοντες· ὧν γὰρ εἰσφέρεται  
ζῶων τὸ αἷμα περὶ ἁμαρτίας εἰς τὰ Ἅγια  
διὰ τοῦ ἀρχιερέως, τούτων τὰ σώματα  
κατακαίεται ἔξω τῆς παρεμβολῆς· διὸ  
καὶ Ἰησοῦς, ἵνα ἁγιάσῃ διὰ τοῦ ἰδίου  
αἵματος τὸν λαόν, ἔξω τῆς πύλης ἔπαθε.  
τοίνυν ἐξερχώμεθα πρὸς αὐτὸν ἔξω τῆς  
παραμβολῆς τὸν ὀνειδισμόν αὐτοῦ  
φέροντες· οὐ γὰρ ἔχομεν ὧδε μένουσαν  
πόλιν, ἀλλὰ τὴν μέλλουσαν  
ἐπιζητοῦμεν. δι' αὐτοῦ οὖν ἀναφέρωμεν  
θυσίαν αἰνέσεως διὰ παντὸς τῷ Θεῷ,  
τοῦτ' ἔστι καρπὸν χειλέων  
ὁμολογούντων τῷ ὀνόματι αὐτοῦ. τῆς δὲ  
εὐποΐας καὶ κοινωνίας μὴ  
ἐπιλανθάνεσθε· τοιαύταις γὰρ θυσίαις  
εὐαρεστεῖται ὁ Θεός.

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.

(13:7-16)

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Brethren, remember your leaders,  
those who spoke to you the word of  
God; consider the outcome of their  
lives, and imitate their faith. Jesus  
Christ is the same yesterday and today  
and for ever. Do not be led away by  
diverse and strange teachings; for it is  
well that the heart be strengthened by  
grace, not by foods, which have not  
benefited their adherents. We have an  
altar from which those who serve the  
tent have no right to eat. For the  
bodies of those animals whose blood is  
brought into the sanctuary by the high  
priest as a sacrifice for sin are burned  
outside the camp. So Jesus also  
suffered outside the gate in order to  
sanctify the people through his own  
blood. Therefore let us go forth to him  
outside the camp and bear the abuse  
he endured. For here we have no  
lasting city, but we seek the city which  
is to come. Through him then let us  
continually offer up a sacrifice of  
praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips  
that acknowledge his name. Do not  
neglect to do good and to share what  
you have, for such sacrifices are  
pleasing to God.

The Holy Gospel Reading according to St. Luke (17:12-19)

12th Sunday of Luke

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ,  
εἰσερχομένου τοῦ Ἰησοῦ εἰς  
τινα κώμην ἀπήντησαν αὐτῷ  
δέκα λεπροὶ ἄνδρες, οἱ  
ἕστησαν πόρρωθεν, καὶ αὐτοὶ  
ἦραν φωνὴν λέγοντες· Ἰησοῦ  
ἐπιστάτα, ἐλέησον ἡμᾶς. καὶ  
ιδὼν εἶπεν αὐτοῖς·  
πορευθέντες ἐπιδείξατε  
ἑαυτοὺς τοῖς ἱερεῦσι. καὶ  
ἐγένετο ἐν τῷ ὑπάγειν αὐτοὺς  
ἐκαθαρίσθησαν. εἷς δὲ ἐξ  
αὐτῶν, ιδὼν ὅτι ἰάθη,  
ὑπέστρεψε μετὰ φωνῆς  
μεγάλης δοξάζων τὸν Θεόν,  
καὶ ἔπεσεν ἐπὶ πρόσωπον  
παρὰ τοὺς πόδας αὐτοῦ  
εὐχαριστῶν αὐτῷ· καὶ αὐτὸς  
ἦν Σαμαρεῖτης. ἀποκριθεὶς δὲ  
ὁ Ἰησοῦς εἶπεν· οὐχὶ οἱ δέκα  
ἐκαθαρίσθησαν; οἱ δὲ ἑννέα  
ποῦ; οὐχ εὐρέθησαν  
ὑποστρέψαντες δοῦναι δόξαν  
τῷ Θεῷ εἰ μὴ ὁ ἄλλογενὴς  
οὗτος; καὶ εἶπεν αὐτῷ·  
ἀναστὰς πορεύου· ἡ πίστις  
σου σέσωκέ σε.

At that time, as Jesus  
entered a village, he was  
met by ten lepers, who  
stood at a distance and  
lifted up their voices and  
said: “Jesus, Master, have  
mercy on us.” When he saw  
them he said to them, “Go  
and show yourselves to the  
priests.” And as they went  
they were cleansed. Then  
one of them, when he saw  
that he was healed, turned  
back, praising God with a  
loud voice; and he fell on  
his face at Jesus’s feet,  
giving him thanks. Now he  
was a Samaritan. Then said  
Jesus: “Were not ten  
cleansed? Where are the  
nine? Was no one found to  
return and give praise to  
God except this foreigner?”  
And he said to him: “Rise  
and go your way; your faith  
has made you well.”

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## 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 January 18, 2026

Ushers on Duty: Sarah Drakopoulos, Nic Poulos

Video: Joanna Patronis Altar Servers: All Adult/Youth Servers

Epistle Readers: Haris Sorovigas (Greek); Richard Stewart (English)

Fellowship Host (Thank You!): Danai Esquivel

PC Member On-Duty: Maria Spicer



### Today our Holy Orthodox Church commemorates:

+ Our Fathers among the Saints Athanasios (Αθανάσιος) and Cyril (Κύριλλος), Patriarchs of Alexandria

*Saint Athanasios the Great (c. 296–373), Patriarch of Alexandria, was the Church's fearless defender of the divinity of Christ against the Arian heresy. A brilliant theologian from a young age and author of On the Incarnation, he stood firm for the faith proclaimed at the Council of Nicaea, enduring repeated exiles for his refusal to compromise the truth. Beloved by clergy and faithful alike, he strengthened Orthodoxy throughout Egypt, wrote the Life of Saint Anthony the Great, helped establish the biblical canon, and guided the Church through decades of trial with courage, wisdom, and pastoral love.*

*Saint Cyril of Alexandria (c. 376–444) followed in this same tradition as a powerful defender of the mystery of the Incarnation. As Patriarch, he opposed the Nestorian heresy, which divided Christ's divine and human natures, and presided over the Third Ecumenical Council at Ephesus in 431, affirming the true teaching of the Church and honoring the Virgin Mary as Theotokos. A devoted shepherd and profound teacher, Saint Cyril left lasting commentaries on the Gospels and faithfully guided the Church for over thirty years in truth and unity.*

+ The Holy Martyr Theodoula (Θεοδούλη) of Anazarbus in Cilicia (+304)

+ The Holy Martyr Xenia (Ξένη)

+ Saint Ulfrid, missionary in Germany and Sweden, martyred for destroying an image of Thor (+1028)

*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 (Κατέλυσας τὸ Σταυρῶ σου, Grave Mode):

You destroyed death by Your Cross, You opened Paradise to the Robber. You turned the Myrrh-bearing Women's lament into joy, and You commanded Your Apostles to preach that You rose, O Christ God, granting the world the great mercy. (Greek Text found in hymnal on pg. 122)

- Hymn of Saints Athanasios and Cyril (Ἐργοὺς λαμπράντες, Third Mode):

Striving brilliantly for Orthodoxy, and subduing all unorthodoxy, \* you were honored with awards for your victories. \* Enriching all with inspired theology, \* your sacred writings profoundly adorn the Church. \* O Athanasius and Cyril, you are now with Christ our God, \* entreating Him to give to all the 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 Kontakion of the Meeting of the Lord (Ὁ μὴντραν παρθενικὴν, First Mode):

You sanctified the womb of the Virgin by Your birth, and by Your presentation You blessed the hands of Symeon, when You came, and You saved us, O Christ our God. Now we pray You give peace to Your world at war, and let love for Your people prevail in all, O only benevolent Lord. (Greek text found in hymnal on pg. 250)

## Guidance, Prayer Requests, and Announcements

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

Sunday, January 18: Sts. Athanasios and Cyril

No Fasting

John 21:1-14; Hebrews 13:7-16; Luke 17:12-19

Monday, January 19: St. Makarios the Great

No Fasting

Galatians 5:22-26, 6:1-2; Matthew 22:35-46

Tuesday, January 20: St. Euthymius the Great

No Fasting

II Corinthians 4:6-15; Luke 6:17-23

Wednesday, January 21: St. Maximos the Confessor

Strict Fast

Philippians 1:12-20; Luke 12:8-12

Thursday, January 22: St. Timothy the Apostle of the 70

No Fasting

II Timothy 1:3-8; Matthew 10:32-33, 37-38, 19:27-30

Friday, January 23: St. Clement of Ancyra

Strict Fast

Philippians 3:20-21, 4:1-3; Mark 2:23-28, 3:1-5

Saturday, January 24: St. Xenia of Rome

No Fasting

Galatians 5:22-26, 6:1-2; Luke 18:35-43

### 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, Bill, Nicholas, Mandy, Benjamin, Brenda, Gabriel, Barbara, Taylor, Elizabeth, Rich, Penny, Brian, Gracie, Woody, Braeden

### Prayers for those recently reposed:

Teri (+December 23), Sharon (+December 29), Norwood (+January 3), James (+January 10)

### Prayers for expecting mothers:

Amanda, 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, Debbie, 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:

St. Athanasios the Great, commemorated today: "The Lord did not come to make a display. He came to heal and to teach suffering men. For one who wanted to make a display the thing would have been just to appear and dazzle the beholders. But for Him Who came to heal and to teach the way was not merely to dwell here, but to put Himself at the disposal of those who needed Him, and to be manifested according as they could bear it, not vitiating the value of the Divine appearing by exceeding

their capacity to receive it."

### Upcoming Celebrations This Week

Name Days—Chronia Polla, Many Years!

January 20: Charles Glotzbach, Effie Morris

January 21: Gray Maximos Yates

January 24: Cyndi Xenia Douglas, Suzanne Diehl, Cheryl Schwartzkopf

Birthdays—Happy Birthday!

January 19: Wyatt Morris

January 20: John Brock

January 21: Maegan Hughes

January 22: Cheryl Schwartzkopf

January 23: Christina Danforth

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 were unable to turn your 2026 Holy Cross Stewardship Pledge 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 Wednesday, January 21 at 6:30pm in-person and on Zoom. The topic will be about our Orthodox Christian understanding of the Theotokos and the Saints.

\* Philoptochos will have their next general meeting taking place after the Divine Liturgy next Sunday, January 25 in the Parish House.

\* The Not-So-Young-Adult Group will have their next outing at the Mercer Basketball Game on Saturday, January 31 at 2:00pm. Contact Beth Zoumberis for more information.

\* An email has been sent with sign-ups for the traditional House Blessings that take place yearly after the Feast Day of Epiphany/Theophany. House Blessings take place by location on certain days through January and February. Please contact Father Theodore if you have trouble signing up.

\* Youth: Today, January 18—Ice Skating after Church Activities. Please talk to Beth Zoumberis about joining today!

\* Great Lent, Holy Week & Pascha Preparations have been emailed out. There are many ways to help by adorning icons, providing meals, organizing children, reading and more! you'd like to volunteer, contact the office email. Scan the QR Code for opportunities to help or donate to help. Thank you for your volunteer efforts during this most blessed time of the year!



\* Our Parish's 2026 St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival ("SJCOF") will be after the Divine Liturgy on SUNDAY, FEB. 8th - it's under one month away! It's also Godparent Sunday - invite your out-of-town godparents to come watch in support! Please register with the email link sent by Presvytera Stacey or by emailing Presvytera at pres.stacey@holycrossga.org. Also of note, we will be hosting the District Level Oratorical Festival here at Holy Cross on Saturday, March 14.

\* 2025 Commitment Statements have been mailed out this week. If you have any questions, or if you do not receive yours in the next week, please contact Maria Spicer.