



HOLY CROSS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

Orthros, part 1



Orthros, part 2



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

Sunday, January 25, 2026

15th Sunday of Luke

Sts. Gregory the Theologian

Eothinon/Orthros Gospel: Eleventh (John 21:14-25)

Mode of the Week: Plagal of the Fourth/Πλ. του Τετάρτου

QR Codes (scan with smart phone for service texts)

Divine Liturgy



Upcoming Schedule

Today, 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
12:45pm 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
Philoptochos Meeting 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

Wednesday, February 4

6:30pm Introduction to the Orthodox Church Class

Saturday, February 7

4:00pm Byzantine Chant Class
5:00pm Great Vespers

Sunday, February 8

9:15am Orthros
10:30am Divine Liturgy on the Sunday of the Prodigal Son
Godparent's Sunday
Sunday School for the Youth after Holy Communion
Oratorical Festival at the end of Liturgy
Coffee Fellowship in the Parish House after the Liturgy
12:45pm Bible Study

Tuesday, February 10

6:30pm Divine Liturgy for the Feast Day of St. Haralambos

Upcoming Epistle Readers: (2/1) Aleca Hortman, Nicholas True; (2/8) George Saratsiotis, Caroline Saratsiotis

Upcoming PC Member On-Duty: (2/1) Secretary; (2/8) Asst. Secretary; (2/15) Mem at Large; (2/22) President

Upcoming Ushers: (1/28) Maria S; (1/30) Norm+Eleni A.; (1/31) Maria S.; (2/1) Cheryl S., Haris S.; (2/2) OPEN

Upcoming Video Operators: (1/30) Cristina; (2/1) AM-Gray/David N.; PM-Natalia; (2/2) Cristina; (2/8) David Z.

Fellowship Hosts: (2/1) Natalia Saratsiotis; (2/8) Cleo Bennette; (2/15) Maria McCluskey; (2/22) Cheryl Schwartzkopf

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 worshiping 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

Τὸ στόμα μου λαλήσει σοφίαν.
Στίχ. Ἀκούσατε ταῦτα, πάντα τὰ
ἔθνη.

+++

Πρὸς Ἐβραίους Ἐπιστολῆς
Παύλου τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα.

+++

Ἄδελφοί, τοιοῦτος ἡμῖν ἔπειρεν
ἀρχιερεύς, ὅσιος, ἄκακος,
ἀμίαντος, κεχωρισμένος ἀπὸ τῶν
ἀμαρτωλῶν καὶ ὑψηλότερος τῶν
οὐρανῶν γενόμενος, ὃς οὐκ ἔχει
καθ' ἡμέραν ἀνάγκην, ὥσπερ οἱ
ἀρχιερεῖς, πρότερον ὑπὲρ τῶν
ἰδίων ἀμαρτιῶν θυσίας
ἀναφέρειν, ἔπειτα τῶν τοῦ λαοῦ·
τοῦτο γὰρ ἐποίησεν ἐφάπαξ
ἔαυτὸν ἀνενέγκας. ὁ νόμος γὰρ
ἀνθρώπους καθίστησιν ἀρχιερεῖς
ἔχοντας ἀσθένειαν, ὁ λόγος δὲ
τῆς ὄρκωμοσίας τῆς μετὰ τὸν
νόμον υἱὸν εἰς τὸν αἰῶνα
τετελειωμένον. Κεφάλαιον δὲ ἐπὶ
τοῖς λεγομένοις, τοιοῦτον ἔχομεν
ἀρχιερέα, ὃς ἐκάθισεν ἐν δεξιᾷ
τοῦ θρόνου τῆς μεγαλωσύνης ἐν
τοῖς οὐρανοῖς, τῶν Ἀγίων
λειτουργὸς καὶ τῆς σκηνῆς τῆς
ἀληθινῆς, ἦν ἔπηξεν ὁ Κύριος,
καὶ οὐκ ἀνθρωπος.

My mouth shall speak wisdom.
Verse: *Hear this, all you
nations.*

+++

*The reading is from Paul's
Letter to the Hebrews.
(7:26-28, 8:1-2)*

+++

Brethren, it was fitting that we
should have such a high priest,
holy, blameless, unstained,
separated from sinners, exalted
above the heavens. He has no
need, like those high priests, to
offer sacrifices daily, first for his
own sins and then for those of
the people; he did this once for
all when he offered up himself.
Indeed, the law appoints men in
their weakness as high priests,
but the word of the oath, which
came later than the law,
appoints a Son who has been
made perfect for ever. Now the
point in what we are saying is
this: we have such a high priest,
one who is seated at the right
hand of the throne of the
Majesty in heaven, a minister in
the sanctuary and the true tent
which is set up not by man but
by the Lord.

The Holy Gospel Reading according to St. Luke (19:1-10)

15th Sunday of Luke

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, διήρχετο ὁ
Ἰησοῦς τὴν Ἱεριχώ· καὶ ιδοὺ ἀνὴρ
ὄνοματι καλούμενος Ζακχαῖος, καὶ
αὐτὸς ἦν ἀρχιτελώνης, καὶ οὗτος ἦν
πλούσιος, καὶ ἐζήτει ιδεῖν τὸν
Ἰησοῦν τίς ἐστι, καὶ οὐκ ἡδύνατο
ἀπὸ τοῦ ὄχλου, ὅτι τῇ ἡλικίᾳ μικρὸς
ἦν. καὶ προδραμὼν ἔμπροσθεν
ἀνέβη ἐπὶ συκομορέαν, ἵνα ἵδῃ
αὐτόν, ὅτι δι' ἐκείνης ἥμελλε
διέρχεσθαι. καὶ ὡς ἥλθεν ἐπὶ τὸν
τόπον, ἀναβλέψας ὁ Ιησοῦς εἶδεν
αὐτόν καὶ εἶπεν πρὸς αὐτόν·
Ζακχαῖε, σπεύσας κατάβηθι·
σήμερον γὰρ ἐν τῷ οἴκῳ σου δεῖ με
μεῖναι. καὶ σπεύσας κατέβη, καὶ
ὑπεδέξατο αὐτὸν χαίρων. καὶ
ἰδόντες πάντες διεγόγγυζον
λέγοντες ὅτι παρὰ ἀμαρτωλῷ ἀνδρὶ¹
εἰσῆλθε καταλῦσαι. σταθεὶς δὲ
Ζακχαῖος εἶπε πρὸς τὸν Κύριον·
Ίδού τὰ ἡμίση τῶν ὑπαρχόντων
μου, Κύριε, δίδωμι τοῖς πτωχοῖς,
καὶ εἴ τινός τι ἐσυκοφάντησα,
ἀποδίδωμι τετραπλοῦν. εἶπε δὲ
πρὸς αὐτὸν ὁ Ιησοῦς ὅτι σήμερον
σωτηρία τῷ οἴκῳ τούτῳ ἐγένετο,
καθότι καὶ αὐτὸς υἱὸς Ἀβραάμ
ἐστιν· ἥλθε γὰρ ὁ υἱὸς τοῦ
ἀνθρώπου ζητῆσαι καὶ σῶσαι τὸ
ἀπολωλός.

At that time, Jesus was passing
through Jericho. And there was
a man named Zacchaeus; he was
a chief collector, and rich. And
he sought to see who Jesus was,
but could not, on account of the
crowd, because he was small of
stature. So he ran on ahead and
climbed up into a sycamore tree
to see him, for he was to pass
that way. And when Jesus came
to the place, he looked up and
said to him, "Zacchaeus, make
haste and come down; for I
must stay at your house today."
So he made haste and came
down, and received him joyfully.
And when they saw it they all
murmured, "He has gone in to
be the guest of a man who is a
sinner." And Zacchaeus stood
and said to the Lord, "Behold,
Lord, the half of my goods I give
to the poor; and if I have
defrauded any one of anything, I
restore it fourfold." And Jesus
said to him, "Today salvation
has come to this house, since he
also is a son of Abraham. For the
Son of man came to seek and to
save the lost."

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 January 25, 2026

Ushers on Duty: Erick + Cheryl Schwartzkopf

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

Epistle Readers: Pete Tsamolias (Greek); Cheryl Schwartzkopf (Eng.)

Fellowship Host (Thank You!): Haris Sorovigas

PC Member On-Duty: Kostas Iakovidis



Today our Holy Orthodox Church commemorates:

- Our Fathers among the Saints Gregory the Theologian (Γρηγόριος ο Θεολόγος), Archbishop of Constantinople (+390)

Saint Gregory the Theologian was born in 329 in Arianzus, Cappadocia, to a deeply holy family, many of whom are honored as saints. He received an exceptional education in Caesarea, Alexandria, and Athens, where he formed a lifelong friendship with Saint Basil the Great and encountered the future Emperor Julian the Apostate. After a dramatic sea storm led him to dedicate his life to God, Gregory pursued an ascetic life with Basil and was later ordained a presbyter by his father and consecrated bishop by Basil, though this caused him personal sorrow.

In 379, Gregory went to Constantinople, then dominated by the Arian heresy. Through his preaching—especially his famous Five Theological Orations on the Trinity—he restored the Orthodox faith and was elected Archbishop by the Second Ecumenical Council in 381. After resigning in 382, he retired to Nazianzus, where he died in 391. Renowned for his eloquence and profound theology, he is honored by the Church as “Gregory the Theologian,” especially for his teachings on the Trinity.

- Our Devout Father Publius (Πούλιος) of Syria (+380)
- Our Devout Father Mares (Μάρης) the Singer (+430)
- The Holy Martyr Medula (Μεδούλη) and those with her
- Our Devout Father Demetrios (Δημήτριος) the Sacristan (+8th Century)
- The Devout Saint Apollo (Απολλώς) of Thebaid (+361)
- The Holy New Martyr Auxentius (Αυξέντιος) in Constantinople (+1720)
- The Venerable Castinus (Καστίνος), Bishop of Byzantium (+240)

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 (Εξ ουρανού, Plagal Fourth Mode):

You descended from on high, O compassionate One, and consented to a three-day burial, to free us from the passions. O Lord, our life and resurrection, glory to You! (Sung before and after the Small Entrance. Greek Text found in hymnal on pg. 126)

- Hymn of Saints Athanasios and Cyril (Ο πομενικός ανδός, First Mode):

The shepherd's pipe of your theology overpowered the horns of the orators. For the more you plumb the depths of the Spirit, ever greater eloquence was bestowed on you. O Father Gregory, intercede with Christ God, entreating Him to 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 Meeting of the Lord (Ο μήντραν παρθενικήν, 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 25: St. Gregory the Theologian

No Fasting

John 21:14-25; Hebrews 7:26-28, 8:1-2; Luke 19:1-10

Monday, January 26: St. Xenophon and his companions

No Fasting

I Peter 2:21-25, 3:1-9; Mark 12:13-17

Tuesday, January 27: Relics of St. John Chrysostom

No Fasting

John 10:1-9; Hebrews 7:26-28, 8:1-2; John 10:9-16

Wednesday, January 28: St. Ephraim the Syrian

Strict Fast

Galatians 5:22-26, 6:1-2; Luke 6:17-23

Thursday, January 29: Relics of St. Ignatius of Antioch

No Fasting

Hebrews 10:32-28; Mark 9:33-41

Friday, January 30: Feast of the Three Hierarchs

Wine + Oil

John 10:9-16; Hebrews 13:7-16; Matthew 5:14-19

Saturday, January 31: Sts. Cyrus and John

No Fasting

I Corinthians 12:27-31, 13:1-8; Matthew 10:1, 5-8

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, Amber, Aryn, Avery, Billy, Bobbie, Cherish, Dakota, Daniel, Darryl, Debby, Deia, Ecaterina, Gabriel, Gavin, Grayson, Hannah, Jessica, John, Kyle, Macayla, Maegan, Max, Mary Emma, Nate, Noah, Philip, 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 Theologian, honored today writing on today's Gospel lesson: "When one has looked upon Jesus, though he be of little stature like Zacheus of old (*Luke 19:3*), and climb up on the top of the sycamore tree by mortifying his members which are upon the earth (*Colossians 3:5*), and having risen above the body of humiliation, then he shall receive the Word, and it shall be said to him, This day has salvation come to this house (*Luke 19:9*).

Then let him lay hold on the salvation, and bring forth fruit more perfectly, scattering and pouring forth rightly that which as a publican he wrongly gathered."

Upcoming Celebrations This Week

Name Days—Chronia Polla, Many Years!

January 25: Greg Spicer

Birthdays—Happy Birthday!

January 26: Daniel Vogt

January 27: Tony Zoumeris, Jr.

January 31: Ben Davis

Anniversaries—Congratulations!

January 31: Angela & Chad Ridley

(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 28 at 6:30pm** in-person and on Zoom. The topic will be about our Orthodox Christian understanding of Eschatology/Life after Death.

* **Philoptochos** will have their next general meeting next Sunday after the Divine Liturgy today in the Parish House.

* **The Not-So-Young-Adult Group** will have their next outing at the Mercer Basketball Game this Saturday, January 31 at 2:00pm. Contact Beth Zoumeris 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.

* **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 in **two weeks!** Please register with the email link sent by Presvytera Stacey or by emailing Presvytera at pres.stacey@holycrossga.org. Also on the 8th is Godparent Sunday - invite your out-of-town godparents to come watch in support! Also of note, we will be hosting the District Level Oratorical Festival here at Holy Cross on Saturday, March 14.

* **Please Save the Date for the Spring General Assembly which will take place after Church on Sunday, February 15.**

* The Parish Council is looking for someone to help assist with the **Cross Dive** in September. This person will be co-chairing the event with Natalia (then will take over the following year). If you are interested or have a suggestion of who can help, please contact either Natalia or someone on the council.