



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 4, 2026

Sunday before Theophany

Synaxis of the Holy Seventy Apostles

Eothinon/Orthros Gospel: Eighth (John 20:11-18)

Mode of the Week: Plagal of the First / Πλ. του Πρώτου

QR Codes (scan with smart phone for service texts)

Divine Liturgy



Upcoming Schedule

Today, January 4

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

Monday, January 5

9:30am Great (Royal) Hours of Theophany
6:00pm Vespersal Liturgy of St. Basil and Blessing of the Waters on the Eve of Theophany

Tuesday, January 6

9:30am Orthros
10:30am Divine Liturgy for the Feast Day of Theophany (Epiphany)
Great Blessing of the Waters at the end of the Liturgy

Wednesday, January 7

5:30pm Divine Liturgy for the Feast Day of Saint John the Baptist
6:30pm Introduction to the Orthodox Church Class (In-Person/Zoom)

Thursday, January 8

10:00am Orthodox Book Study at Taste & See

Saturday, January 10

4:00pm Byzantine Chant Class
5:00pm Great Vespers
6:30pm Festival Wrap-Up Meeting with All Chairmen

Sunday, January 11

9:15am Orthros
10:30am Divine Liturgy on the Sunday after Theophany
Sunday School for the Youth after Holy Communion
Coffee Fellowship in the Parish House after the Liturgy
12:45pm Bible Study
1:00pm Youth Greek School

Wednesday, January 14

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

Thursday, January 15

10:00am Orthodox Book Study at Taste & See

Saturday, January 17

8:00am Orthros
9:00am Divine Liturgy on the Feast Day of St. Anthony the Great

Sunday, 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
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

Upcoming Epistle Readers: (1/11) Helen Troupis, Beth Zoumberis; (1/18) Haris Sorovigas, Richard Stewart
Upcoming PC Member On-Duty: (1/4) Natalia S.; (1/11) Jim Lekas; (1/18) Maria Spicer; (1/25) Asst. Treasurer
Upcoming Ushers: (12/31) Eleni; (1/1) Charles G.; (1/4) Sarah D, Joanna P; (1/5a) Charles G; (1/5p) Haris S.
Upcoming Video Operators: (12/28) Gray, David N; (12/31) Norm; (1/1) David Z; (1/4+5) Natalia; (1/6) Cristina L.
Fellowship Hosts: (1/4) Philoptochos; (1/11) Georgia Saratsiotis; (1/18) Danai Esquivel; (1/25) Haris Sorovigas

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

Σῶσον, Κύριε, τὸν λαόν σου
καὶ εὐλόγησον τὴν
κληρονομίαν σου.

Στίχ. Πρὸς σέ, Κύριε,
κεκράζομαι, ὁ Θεός μου.

+++

Πρὸς Τιμόθεον Β΄ Ἐπιστολῆς
Παύλου τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα.

+++

Τέκνον Τιμόθεε, νῆφε ἐν
πᾶσι, κακοπάθησον, ἔργον
ποίησον εὐαγγελιστοῦ, τὴν
διακονίαν σου
πληροφόρησον. ἐγὼ γὰρ ἤδη
σπένδομαι, καὶ ὁ καιρὸς τῆς
ἐμῆς ἀναλύσεως ἐφέστηκε.
τὸν ἀγῶνα τὸν καλὸν
ἠγώνισμαι, τὸν δρόμον
τετέλεκα, τὴν πίστιν
τετήρηκα· λοιπὸν ἀπόκειται
μοι ὁ τῆς δικαιοσύνης
στέφανος, ὃν ἀποδώσει μοι ὁ
Κύριος ἐν ἐκείνῃ τῇ ἡμέρᾳ, ὁ
δίκαιος κριτής, οὐ μόνον δὲ
ἐμοί, ἀλλὰ καὶ πᾶσι τοῖς
ἠγαπηκόσι τὴν ἐπιφάνειαν
αὐτοῦ.

*O Lord, save Your people,
and bless Your inheritance.*

*Verse: To You, O Lord, I
cry; O my God.*

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*The reading is from Paul's
Second Letter to Timothy.*

(4:5-8)

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Timothy, my son, always be
watchful, endure suffering,
do the work of an
evangelist, fulfill your
ministry. For I am already
on the point of being
sacrificed; the time of my
departure has come. I have
fought the good fight, I
have finished the race, I
have kept the faith.
Henceforth there is laid up
for me the crown of
righteousness, which the
Lord, the righteous judge,
will award to me on that
Day, and not only to me but
also to all who have loved
his appearing.

The Holy Gospel Reading according to St. Mark (1:1-8)

Sunday before Theophany

Ἀρχὴ τοῦ εὐαγγελίου Ἰησοῦ
Χριστοῦ, υἱοῦ τοῦ Θεοῦ. Ὡς
γέγραπται ἐν τοῖς προφήταις, ἰδοὺ
ἐγὼ ἀποστέλλω τὸν ἄγγελόν μου
πρὸ προσώπου σου, ὃς
κατασκευάσει τὴν ὁδόν σου
ἔμπροσθέν σου· φωνὴ βοῶντος ἐν
τῇ ἐρήμῳ, ἐτοιμάσατε τὴν ὁδὸν
Κυρίου, εὐθείας ποιεῖτε τὰς
τρίβους αὐτοῦ, ἐγένετο Ἰωάννης
βαπτίζων ἐν τῇ ἐρήμῳ καὶ
κηρύσσων βάπτισμα μετανοίας
εἰς ἄφεσιν ἁμαρτιῶν. καὶ
ἐξεπορεύετο πρὸς αὐτὸν πᾶσα ἡ
Ἰουδαία χώρα καὶ οἱ
Ἱεροσολυμίται, καὶ ἐβαπτίζοντο
πάντες ἐν τῷ Ἰορδάνῃ ποταμῷ
ὑπὲρ αὐτοῦ ἐξομολογούμενοι τὰς
ἁμαρτίας αὐτῶν. ἦν δὲ ὁ Ἰωάννης
ἐνδεδυμένος τρίχας καμήλου καὶ
ζώνην δερματίνην περὶ τὴν ὀσφύν
αὐτοῦ, καὶ ἐσθίων ἀκρίδας καὶ
μέλι ἄγριον. καὶ ἐκήρυσσε λέγων·
ἔρχεται ὁ ἰσχυρότερός μου ὀπίσω
μου, οὗ οὐκ εἰμὶ ἱκανὸς κύψας
λῦσαι τὸν ἱμάντα τῶν
ὑποδημάτων αὐτοῦ. ἐγὼ μὲν
ἐβάπτισα ὑμᾶς ἐν ὕδατι, αὐτὸς δὲ
βαπτίσει ὑμᾶς ἐν Πνεύματι Ἁγίῳ.

The beginning of the Gospel of
Jesus Christ, the Son of God.
As it is written in the prophets,
‘Behold, I send my messenger
before your face, who shall
prepare your way; the voice of
one crying in the wilderness:
prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight —’
John was baptizing in the
wilderness and preaching a
baptism of repentance for the
forgiveness of sins. And there
went out to him all the country
of Judea, and all the people of
Jerusalem; and they were
baptized by him in the river
Jordan, confessing their sins.
Now John was clothed with
camel’s hair, and had a leather
girdle around his waist, and
ate locusts and wild honey.
And he preached, saying,
“After me comes he who is
mightier than I, the thong of
whose sandals I am not worthy
to stoop down and untie. I
have baptized you with water;
but he will baptize you with
the Holy Spirit.”

HOLY CROSS

GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

Rev. Fr. Theodore Ehmer

Προϊστάμενος/Presiding Priest

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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 4, 2026

Ushers on Duty: Sarah Drakopoulos, Joanna Patronis

Video: Natalia S.

Altar Servers: All Adult/Youth Servers

Epistle Readers: Chad Ridley (Greek); Carter Zoumberis (English)

Fellowship Host (Thank You!): Philoptochos

PC Member On-Duty: Natalia Saratsiotis



Today our Holy Orthodox Church commemorates:

- + Forefeast of the Theophany of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ
- + Synaxis of the Holy and Glorious 70 Apostles

The Seventy Disciples and Apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ are those Whom our Saviour chose in addition to the Twelve and sent forth unto the work of preaching. With the passage of time, others were added to their number by the Holy Apostles, who, with the accompaniment and assistance of the Seventy, were preaching the Gospel of Christ in various lands. Although their number eventually exceeded seventy, they were all nonetheless referred to as "of the Seventy" out of reverence for the number of Apostles which the Lord chose. After the Passion, Resurrection, and Ascension of our Lord, and after Pentecost, on which all the Apostles and men and women disciples of Christ, together with the Most Holy Theotokos (some 120 in number), were gathered in the upper chamber, they received the grace of the All-holy Spirit and went forth throughout the ends of the world, everywhere preaching and teaching the Gospel of Christ, and leading to the true Faith the peoples who were sunk in the darkness of impiety and idolatry.

- + Our Devout Father Theoktistos (Θεόκτιστος), Abbot of Koukouma in Sicily (+800)
- + The Venerable Nikephoros (Νικηφόρος) the Leper (+1964)
- + The Holy Martyrs Zosimas (Ζώσιμος) the Monk and Athanasios (Αθανάσιος) the Notary (+4th c.)
- + The Devout Apollinaria (Απολλιναρία) the Senator (5th c.)
- + The Holy Martrys Chrysanthos (Χρυσάνθος) and Ephimia (Ευφημία)
- + The Holy New Martyr Onuphrios (Ονούφριος) on Chios (+1818)

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 (Τον συνάναρχον Λόγον, Plagal First Mode):*

As the Father and Spirit are unoriginate, * so the Word, who was born from the Virgin for us. * Let us praise Him, O believers, and let us worship Him. * For our salvation He was pleased * to be crucified in the flesh, * and to undergo death, * and to resurrect the dead, by His glorious resurrection. *(Greek Text found in hymnal on pg. 114)*

- *Hymn of the Forefeast of Theophany (Ετοιμάζου Ζαβουλών, Fourth Mode):*

O Zabulon, prepare, and be ready, Nephthalim. Jordan River, hold your course, and exultantly receive the Master who is coming to be baptized. Adam leap for joy with Eve the Foremother. No longer hide yourselves, as once in Paradise; for having seen you naked He has appeared to clothe you in your former vesture. The Christ has appeared, wishing to renew the entire creation.

- *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 Forefeast of Theophany (Εν τοις πείθοις, Third Mode):*

To the flowing streams today * of River Jordan * comes the Lord and cries aloud * to John the Baptist, and He says, * “Be not afraid to baptize me now; * for I have come to save Adam, the first-formed man.”

Guidance, Prayer Requests, and Announcements

This Week’s Daily Commemorations, Fasting Guidance and Scripture Readings: **Sunday, January 4: Synaxis of the 70 Apostles**

No Fasting

John 20:11-18; II Timothy 4:5-8; Mark 1:108

Monday, January 5: Eve of Theophany

Strict Fast

I Corinthians 9:19-27; Luke 3:1-18

Tuesday, January 6: Theophany/Epiphany

No Fasting

Mark 1:9-11; Titus 2:11-14, 3:4-7; Matthew 3:13-17

Wednesday, January 7: Synaxis of John the Baptist

Fish, Wine, Oil

Acts 19:1-8; John 1:29-34

Thursday, January 8: St. George of Hozeva

No Fasting

Romans 6:3-11; John 3:22-33

Friday, January 9: St. Polyeuctus of Melitene

Strict Fast

II Timothy 2:1-10; Mark 1:9-15

Saturday, January 10: St. Gregory of Nyssa

No Fasting

Ephesians 6:10-17; Matthew 4:1-11

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, Barbara, Taylor, Elizabeth, Rich, Penny, Brian

Prayers for those recently reposed:

George (+December 3), Debbie (+December 6),
Teri (+December 23), Sharon (+December 29)

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, 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. Gregory of Nyssa (commemorated this week on January 10) speaking of our Holy Baptism given our commemoration of the Baptism of our Lord this week on January 6: “And we, in receiving Baptism, . . . conceal ourselves in [the water] as the Savior did in the earth: and by doing this thrice we represent for ourselves that grace of the Resurrection which was wrought in three days. And this we do, not receiving the sacrament in

silence, but while there are spoken over us the Names of the Three Sacred Persons on Whom we believed, in Whom we also hope, from Whom comes to us both the fact of our present and the fact of our future existence.”

Upcoming Celebrations This Week

Name Days—Chronia Polla, Many Years!

January 7: John Apostolou, John Brock, Jonathan Brock, John Cacavias, Bryan “John” Gordy, Sean Morris, Joanna Patronis, Yianni Pothoulakis, John Santon, John Sorovigas, John Staurulakis

Birthdays—Happy Birthday!

January 4: Robert Ice, Alex Saratsiotis

January 5: Adam Landin

January 8: Holly Economopoulos

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 7 at 6:30pm** both in-person and on Zoom. The topic for the next session will be the Orthodox Christian Liturgical Year.

* 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 by next Sunday, January 4th 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.

* Philoptochos is hosting the **Blessing of the Vasilopites** today in celebration of the Feast Day of St. Basil the Great. Please consider making a Vasilopita and bringing it to Church to share with our Holy Cross Family. Philoptochos will also have a collection on this day to support the St. Basil Academy in New York which supports children and families in need.

* 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:** Sun, January 18—Ice Skating after Church Activities. Please contact Beth Zoumberis for more information.

Happy New Year! Καλή Χρονιά!