



HOLY CROSS

GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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

Sunday, February 15, 2026

Judgment Sunday (Meatfare Sunday)

St. Onesimos the Apostle

Eothinon/Orthros Gospel: Third (Mark 16:9-20)

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

<i>Today, February 15</i>	8:15am Orthros 9:30am Divine Liturgy on Judgment/Meatfare Sunday Sunday School for the Youth after Holy Communion 11:00am Spring General Assembly Coffee Fellowship in the Parish House after the General Assembly 1:00pm Youth Greek School
<i>Monday, February 16</i>	President's Day / Office Closed
<i>Tuesday, February 17</i>	6:30pm Divine Liturgy on the Feast Day of St. Theodore the Recruit
<i>Wednesday, February 18</i>	5:30pm Great Vespers honoring the Holy Martyr Philothea (at St. Philothea Greek Orthodox Church in Athens) 6:30pm Introduction to the Orthodox Church Class (In-Person/Zoom)
<i>Thursday, February 19</i>	10:00am Orthodox Book Study at Taste and See in Macon
<i>Friday, February 20</i>	6:30pm Not-So-Young Adult Gathering at the Schwartzkopf Home
<i>Saturday, February 21</i>	9:30am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy and Memorial Service on the Saturday of the Commemoration of the Holy Ascetics (2 nd Saturday of Souls) Parish Council Meeting 12:30pm Holy Baptism of Daniel Vogt 4:00pm
<i>Sunday, February 22</i>	9:15am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy on Forgiveness/Cheesefare Sunday Sunday School for the Youth after Holy Communion Coffee Fellowship in the Parish House after the Liturgy 2:00pm Forgiveness Vespers
<i>Monday, February 23</i>	6:00pm Great Compline on Clean Monday (beginning of Great Lent)
<i>Wednesday, February 25</i>	5:30pm 9th Hour & Pre-Sanctified Liturgy 7:15pm Light Lenten Meal & Book Discussion in the Parish House
<i>Friday, February 27</i>	6:00pm Small Compline and First Salutations to the Theotokos
<i>Saturday, February 28</i>	9:30am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy and Memorial Service on the Commemoration of St. Theodore the Recruit and the Miracle of the Kollyva (3 rd Sat of Souls)
<i>Sunday, March 1</i>	9:30am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy on the Sunday of Orthodoxy Procession of the Holy Icons at the end of the Liturgy Coffee Fellowship in the Parish House after the Liturgy 5:00pm Pan-Orthodox Sunday of Orthodoxy Vespers at the Annunciation Cathedral in Atlanta

Upcoming Epistle Readers (2/22) Chad Ridley, Sarah Drakopoulos; (3/1) Pete Tsamolias, Rene Esquivel
Upcoming PC Member On-Duty: (2/22) David Zoumberis; (3/1) Chad Ridley; (3/8) Maria Spicer; (3/15) Kostas I.
Upcoming Ushers: (2/17) Natalia S.; (2/21) David Z.; (2/22AM+PM) Sarah D., Maria S.; (2/23+25+27) Charles G.
Upcoming Video Operators: (2/22 AM & PM) Natalia; (2/23) Daniel; (2/25) Natalia; (2/27) Daniel; (2/28) Norm
Fellowship Hosts: (2/22) Cheryl Schwartzkopf; (3/1) Tassie Cantrell; (3/8) Beth Zoumberis; (3/15) 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

*Μέγας ὁ Κύριος ἡμῶν, καὶ μεγάλη ἡ
ἰσχὺς αὐτοῦ.*

*Στίχ. Αἰνεῖτε τὸν Κύριον, ὅτι ἀγαθὸς
Κύριος.*

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*Πρὸς Κορινθίους Α' Ἐπιστολῆς
Παύλου τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα.*

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Ἀδελφοί, βρῶμα ἡμᾶς οὐ παρίστησι τῷ Θεῷ· οὔτε γὰρ ἐὰν φάγωμεν περισσεύωμεν, οὔτε ἐὰν μὴ φάγωμεν ὑστερούμεθα. βλέπετε δὲ μήπως ἡ ἐξουσία ὑμῶν αὕτη πρόσκομμα γένηται τοῖς ἀσθενοῦσιν. ἐὰν γὰρ τις ἴδῃ σε, τὸν ἔχοντα γνῶσιν, ἐν εἰδωλείῳ κατακείμενον, οὐχὶ ἡ συνείδησις αὐτοῦ ἀσθενοῦς ὄντος οἰκοδομηθήσεται εἰς τὸ τὰ εἰδωλόθυτα ἐσθίειν; καὶ ἀπολεῖται ὁ ἀσθενῶν ἀδελφὸς ἐπὶ τῇ σῆ γνώσει, δι' ὃν Χριστὸς ἀπέθανεν. οὕτω δὲ ἁμαρτάνοντες εἰς τοὺς ἀδελφοὺς καὶ τύπτοντες αὐτῶν τὴν συνείδησιν ἀσθενοῦσαν εἰς Χριστὸν ἁμαρτάνετε. διόπερ εἰ βρῶμα σκανδαλίζει τὸν ἀδελφόν μου, οὐ μὴ φάγω κρέα εἰς τὸν αἰῶνα, ἵνα μὴ τὸν ἀδελφόν μου σκανδαλίσω. Οὐκ εἰμι ἀπόστολος; οὐκ εἰμι ἐλεύθερος; οὐχὶ Ἰησοῦν Χριστὸν τὸν Κύριον ἡμῶν ἐώρακα; οὐ τὸ ἔργον μου ὑμεῖς ἐστε ἐν Κυρίῳ; εἰ ἄλλοις οὐκ εἰμι ἀπόστολος, ἀλλὰ γε ὑμῖν εἰμι· ἡ γὰρ σφραγὶς τῆς ἐμῆς ἀποστολῆς ὑμεῖς ἐστε ἐν Κυρίῳ.

*Great is our Lord, and great is His
strength.*

*Verse: Praise the Lord, for the
Lord is good.*

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*The reading is from Paul's First
Letter to the Corinthians.*

(8:8-13, 9:1-2)

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Brethren, food will not commend us to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. Only take care lest this liberty of yours somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. For if any one sees you, a man of knowledge, at table in an idol's temple, might he not be encouraged, if his conscience is weak, to eat food offered to idols? And so by your knowledge this weak man is destroyed, the brother for whom Christ died. Thus, sinning against your brethren and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food is a cause of my brother's falling, I will never eat meat, lest I cause my brother to fall. Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord? Are not you my workmanship in the Lord? If to others I am not an apostle, at least I am to you; for you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord.

The Holy Gospel Reading according to St. Matthew (25:31-46)

Judgement Sunday (Meatfare Sunday)

Εἶπεν ὁ Κύριος· Ὅταν δὲ ἔλθῃ ὁ υἱὸς τοῦ ἀνθρώπου ἐν τῇ δόξῃ αὐτοῦ καὶ πάντες οἱ ἅγιοι ἄγγελοι μετ' αὐτοῦ, τότε καθίσει ἐπὶ θρόνου δόξης αὐτοῦ, καὶ συναχθήσεται ἔμπροσθεν αὐτοῦ πάντα τὰ ἔθνη, καὶ ἀφοριεῖ αὐτοὺς ἀπ' ἀλλήλων ὡσπερ ὁ ποιμὴν ἀφορίζει τὰ πρόβατα ἀπὸ τῶν ἐρίφων, καὶ στήσει τὰ μὲν πρόβατα ἐκ δεξιῶν αὐτοῦ, τὰ δὲ ἐρίφια ἐξ εὐωνύμων. τότε ἐρεῖ ὁ βασιλεὺς τοῖς ἐκ δεξιῶν αὐτοῦ· δεῦτε οἱ εὐλογημένοι τοῦ πατρὸς μου, κληρονομήσατε τὴν ἡτοιμασμένην ὑμῖν βασιλείαν ἀπὸ καταβολῆς κόσμου. ἐπεινάσα γάρ, καὶ ἐδώκατέ μοι φαγεῖν, ἐδίψησα, καὶ ἐποτίσατέ με, ξένος ἦμην, καὶ συνηγάγετέ με, γυμνός, καὶ περιεβάλετέ με, ἡσθένησα, καὶ ἐπεσκέψασθέ με, ἐν φυλακῇ ἦμην, καὶ ἦλθετε πρὸς με. τότε ἀποκριθήσονται αὐτῷ οἱ δίκαιοι λέγοντες· κύριε, πότε σε εἶδομεν πεινῶντα καὶ ἐθρέψαμεν, ἢ διψῶντα καὶ ἐποτίσαμεν; πότε δέ σε εἶδομεν ξένον καὶ συνηγάγομεν, ἢ γυμνὸν καὶ περιεβάλομεν; πότε δέ σε εἶδομεν ἀσθενῆ ἢ ἐν φυλακῇ, καὶ ἦλθομεν πρὸς σε; καὶ ἀποκριθεὶς ὁ βασιλεὺς ἐρεῖ αὐτοῖς· ἀμὴν λέγω ὑμῖν, ἐφ' ὅσον ἐποιήσατε ἐνὶ τούτων τῶν ἀδελφῶν μου τῶν ἐλαχίστων, ἐμοὶ ἐποιήσατε. τότε ἐρεῖ καὶ τοῖς ἐξ εὐωνύμων· πορεύεσθε ἀπ' ἐμοῦ οἱ κατηραμένοι εἰς τὸ πῦρ τὸ αἰώνιον τὸ ἡτοιμασμένον τῷ διαβόλῳ καὶ τοῖς ἀγγέλοις αὐτοῦ. ἐπεινάσα γάρ, καὶ οὐκ ἐδώκατέ μοι φαγεῖν, ἐδίψησα, καὶ οὐκ ἐποτίσατέ με, ξένος ἦμην, καὶ οὐ συνηγάγετέ με, γυμνός, καὶ οὐ περιεβάλετέ με, ἀσθενῆς καὶ ἐν φυλακῇ, καὶ οὐκ ἐπεσκέψασθέ με. τότε ἀποκριθήσονται αὐτῷ καὶ αὐτοὶ λέγοντες· κύριε, πότε σε εἶδομεν πεινῶντα ἢ διψῶντα ἢ ξένον ἢ γυμνὸν ἢ ἀσθενῆ ἢ ἐν φυλακῇ, καὶ οὐ διηκονήσαμεν σοι; τότε ἀποκριθήσεται αὐτοῖς λέγων· ἀμὴν λέγω ὑμῖν, ἐφ' ὅσον οὐκ ἐποιήσατε ἐνὶ τούτων τῶν ἐλαχίστων, οὐδὲ ἐμοὶ ἐποιήσατε. καὶ ἀπελεύσονται οὗτοι εἰς κόλασιν αἰώνιον, οἱ δὲ δίκαιοι εἰς ζωὴν αἰώνιον.

The Lord said, "When the Son of man comes in his glory and all the holy angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate them one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will place the sheep at his right hand, but the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, O blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.' Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me.' Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?' Then he will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it not to one of the least of these, you did it not to me.' And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

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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 February 15, 2026

Ushers on Duty: Sarah Drakopoulos, Haris Sorovigas

Video: Joanna P.

Altar Servers: All Adult/Youth Servers

Epistle Readers: George Saratsiotis (Greek); Cleo Bennette (English)

Fellowship Host (Thank You!): Maria McCluskey

PC Member On-Duty: Jim Lekas



Today our Holy Orthodox Church commemorates:

- + Third Sunday of the Triodion: Commemoration of the Second and Impartial coming of our Lord Jesus Christ

The foregoing two parables -- especially that of the Prodigal Son -- have presented to us God's extreme goodness and love for man. But lest certain persons, putting their confidence in this alone, live carelessly, squandering upon sin the time given them to work out their salvation, and death suddenly snatch them away, the most divine Fathers have appointed this day's feast commemorating Christ's impartial Second Coming, through which we bring to mind that God is not only the Friend of man, but also the most righteous Judge, Who recompenses to each according to his deeds. It is the aim of the holy Fathers, through bringing to mind that fearful day, to rouse us from the slumber of carelessness unto the work of virtue, and to move us to love and compassion for our brethren. Besides this, even as on the coming Sunday of Cheese-fare we commemorate Adam's exile from the Paradise of delight -- which exile is the beginning of life as we know it now -- it is clear that today's is reckoned the last of all feasts, because on the last day of judgment, truly, everything of this world will come to an end. All foods, except meat and meat products, are allowed during the week that follows this Sunday.

- + The Holy Apostle Onesimos (Ονήσιμος), disciple of the Holy Apostle Paul (+109)

This Apostle, who was from Colossae, was a bond-servant of that Philemon to whom the Apostle Paul addressed his epistle. Onesimus escaped from Philemon and fled to Rome, where he became a disciple of Saint Paul. Saint Paul brought him to the Faith of Christ, and then sent him back to his master, who in turn gave him his freedom and sent him back to Rome again, where he ministered to Saint Paul. Later, he was seized because he was a Christian and was sent to Puteoli, where he was beaten to death with clubs. Saint Onesimus is also commemorated on November 22 with the holy Apostles Philemon, Apphia, and Archippus.

- + The Holy Martyr Major (Μαίωρ) of Gaza (+302)
- + Our Devout Father Efsevios (Ευσεβίος) of Syria (+5th century)

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):*

Let the heavens be glad. Let the earth rejoice exceedingly. For the Lord has shown strength with his arm. He trampled death by death. He became the first-born of the dead. Out of the belly of Hades, He has rescued us, and to the world He has granted the great mercy. (Sung before and after the Small Entrance. Greek Text found in hymnal on pg. 106)

- *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 Judgement Sunday (Όταν έλθης ο Θεός, First Mode):*

When You come down to the earth, O God, in Your glory, all things will cower tremulous, and a river of fire will draw before Your Judgment Seat; the books shall be opened up, and public knowledge will things hidden be. Rescue me, then, I pray, from unquenchable fire, and count me worthy to stand at Your right hand, O You, the most righteous Judge. (Greek text found in hymnal on pg. 260)

Guidance, Prayer Requests, and Announcements

This Week's Daily Commemorations, Fasting Guidance and Scripture Readings:
Sunday, February 15: Judgement Sunday (Meatfare)
No Fasting

Mark 16:9-20; I Corinthians 8:8-13, 9:1-2; Matthew 25:31-46

Monday, February 16: St. Pamphilus the Martyr
Dairy, Eggs, and Fish Allowed

III John 1:1-15; Luke 19:29-40, 22:7-39

Tuesday, February 17: St. Theodore the Recruit
Dairy, Eggs, and Fish Allowed

II Timothy 2:1-10; Luke 20:46-47, 21:1-4

Wednesday, February 18: St. Leo the Great
Dairy, Eggs, and Fish Allowed

Joel 3:12-21; Joel 2:12-26

Thursday, February 19: St. Philothea the Martyr
Dairy, Eggs, and Fish Allowed

Jude 1:11-25; Luke 23:1-31, 33, 44-56

Friday, February 20: St. Leo of Catania
Dairy, Eggs, and Fish Allowed

Zechariah 8:7-17; Zechariah 8:19-23

Saturday, February 21: St. Timothy the Righteous
Dairy, Eggs, and Fish Allowed

Galatians 5:22-26, 6:1-2; Matthew 6:1-13

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, Lucy, George, John, Pauline, Bill, Nicholas, Mandy, Benjamin, Brenda, Gabriel, Barbara, Taylor, Elizabeth, Rich, Penny, Brian, Gracie, Woody, Braeden, Nikitis, Donna

Prayers for those recently reposed:

Norwood (+January 3), James (+January 10),
Darryl (+February 9), Suwan (+February 13)

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, Debbie, Deia, Ecaterina, Gabrielle, 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:

St. Gennadius of Constantinople (+471) with important words regarding judgement, the theme of this Sunday: "To judge sins is the business of one who is sinless, but who is sinless except God? Who ever thinks about the multitude of his own sins in his heart never wants to make the sins of others a topic of conversation. To judge a man who has gone astray is a

sign of pride, and God resists the proud. On the other hand, one who every hour prepares himself to give answer for his own sins will not quickly lift up his head to examine the mistakes of others."

Upcoming Celebrations This Week

Name Days—Chronia Polla, Many Years!

February 17: Father Theodore Ehmer

Birthdays—Happy Birthday!

February 16: Adam Kangas

February 18: Lincoln Wells

February 19: Lizzie Lawrence

February 20: Cherish Dempsey

Anniversaries—Congratulations!

February 17: Kemie & Adam Landin

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

Announcements:

* The **Spring General Assembly** will be held today following Divine Liturgy in the Church. Everyone is welcome to attend this important meeting, during which we will discuss the proposed purchase of the parking lot. However, please note that only members in good standing may vote on any actions. Childcare will be provided so all parents can attend.

* The next **Introduction to the Orthodox Church** class will take place **Wednesday, February 18 at 6:30pm** in-person and on Zoom and will be facilitated by Chad Ridley. The topic will be the the Orthodox Christian understanding of Holy Iconography. For those who would like to attend, Father Theodore will be travelling to Athens, Georgia to celebrate the Festal Great Vespers at St. Philothea Greek Orthodox Church.

* **The Not-So-Young-Adult Group** will have their next outing at the home of Cheryl & Erick Schwartzkopf this Friday, February 20th at 6:30pm for a game night.

* Thank you to those who have signed up for the **Great Lent, Holy Week & Pascha Preparations**. Currently, we still need someone to prepare a Light Lenten Dinner for March 25 (fish is allowed). We have more areas in April. To view what is still needed, please scan the QR Code.

* **YOUTH:** Mark your Calendar for Saturday, March 14th: Holy Cross is hosting the District Level Oratorical Festival. Come and learn and be inspired by the faithfulness of all of the youth from all over our district!

* Please save the date for the evening of Sunday, March 8 as we will be hosting the annual **Pan-Orthodox Lenten Vespers** with St. Innocent at Holy Cross this year at 5:00pm. There will be Lenten refreshments to follow in the Parish House.

* We are currently in the period where we celebrate the **Saturday of the Souls**. Beginning yesterday and for the next two Saturdays, there will be Divine Liturgy with a Memorial Service. If you would like your reposed loved ones remembered during the service, please fill out the form in the Narthex. May their memory be eternal!

* The next **Men's Brotherhood** Gathering will be on Tuesday, March 10 at 7:00pm at Tatnall Square Park. Join us at Church for Great Compline beforehand at 6:00pm as well!