



HOLY CROSS

GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

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www.holycrossga.org | Facebook: HolyCrossMaconGA

Sunday, March 22, 2026

Fourth Sunday of Great Lent: Sunday of St. John Climacus
 St. Basil of Ancyra

Eothinon/Orthros Gospel: Eighth (John 20:11-18)
 Mode of the Week: Plagal of the Fourth/Πλ. του Τετάρτου

QR Codes (scan with smart phone for service texts)

Orthros, part 1



Orthros, part 2



Divine Liturgy



Upcoming Schedule

<i>Today, March 22</i>	9:15am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy on the Sunday of St. John Climacus Greek School March 25 th Presentation at the end of Liturgy Usher Meeting after the Liturgy/Presentation Coffee Fellowship in the Parish House after the Liturgy 1:00pm Choir Practice in the Church
<i>Tuesday, March 24</i>	3:00pm Red Cross Blood Drive (until 7:00pm) in the Parish House
<i>Wednesday, March 25</i>	5:00pm Orthros 6:00pm Divine Liturgy on the Feast Day of the Annunciation of the Theotokos 7:15pm Light Lenten Meal and Spiritual Discussion in the Parish House
<i>Thursday, March 26</i>	6:00pm Great Compline with the Great Canon of St. Andrew of Crete
<i>Friday, March 27</i>	6:00pm Small Compline and the Akathist Hymn
<i>Saturday, March 28</i>	9:30am Young Adult Ministry Hiking Outing
<i>Sunday, March 29</i>	9:15am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy on the Sunday of St. March of Egypt Sunday School for the Youth after Holy Communion Coffee Fellowship in the Parish House after the Liturgy 1:00pm Bible Study / Youth Greek School 2:00pm Holy Baptism of Henry Johnson
<i>Tuesday, March 31</i>	5:00pm Great Compline
<i>Wednesday, April 1</i>	5:45pm 9 th Hour & Pre-Sanctified Liturgy 7:15pm Light Lenten Meal & Spiritual Book Discussion
<i>Saturday, April 4</i>	9:30am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy on the Feast Day of Lazarus Saturday 12:00pm Youth Retreat with Lenten Pancakes 2:00pm Great Vespers for Palm Sunday
<i>Sunday, April 5</i>	9:15am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy on Palm Sunday Procession of the Palms at the end of the Divine Liturgy 12:00pm Palm Sunday Luncheon hosted by Philoptochos 2:00pm Bridegroom Orthros for Holy Monday
<i>Holy Monday, April 6</i>	7:00pm Bridegroom Orthros for Holy Tuesday
<i>Holy Tuesday, April 7</i>	7:00pm Bridegroom Orthros for Holy Wednesday
<i>Holy Wednesday, April 8</i>	9:30am Pre-Sanctified Liturgy 5:30pm Orthros of Holy Thursday & Holy Unction

Upcoming Epistle Readers (3/29) Chad Ridley, Carter Zoumberis; (4/5) Aleca Hortman; Ethan Pellegrino
Upcoming PC Member On-Duty: (3/29) Kathy Patras; (4/5) Jim Lekas; (4/12) David Zoumberis; (4/19) Natalia S.
Upcoming Ushers: (3/25) Natalia; (3/26-27) Sarah; (3/29) Haris, Maria S; (3/31) Charles; (4/1) OPEN; (4/4) Eleni
Upcoming Video Operators: (3/25+26) Cristina; (3/27) Natalia; (3/29) Kostas; (4/1) Natalia; (4/4) Norm
Fellowship Hosts: (3/29) Katerina Iakovidis; (4/5) Philoptochos Luncheon; (4/12) Parish Council Pascha Picnic

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

Εὐξασθε καὶ ἀπόδοτε Κυρίῳ τῷ Θεῷ ἡμῶν.

Στίχ. Γνωστὸς ἐν τῇ Ἰουδαίᾳ ὁ Θεός, ἐν τῷ Ἰσραὴλ μέγα τὸ ὄνομα αὐτοῦ.

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Πρὸς Ἑβραίους Ἐπιστολῆς Παύλου τὸ ἀνάγνωσμα.

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Ἀδελφοί,
τῷ Ἀβραάμ ἐπαγγειλάμενος ὁ Θεός, ἐπεὶ κατ' οὐδενὸς εἶχε μείζονος ὁμόσαι, ὥμοσε καθ' ἑαυτοῦ, λέγων· ἢ μὴν εὐλογῶν εὐλογήσω σε καὶ πληθύνων πληθυνῶ σε· καὶ οὕτω μακροθυμήσας ἐπέτυχε τῆς ἐπαγγελίας. ἄνθρωποι μὲν γὰρ κατὰ τοῦ μείζονος ὁμνύουσι, καὶ πάσης αὐτοῖς ἀντιλογίας πέρας εἰς βεβαίωσιν ὁ ὄρκος· ἐν ᾧ περισσότερο βουλόμενος ὁ Θεὸς ἐπιδειξαι τοῖς κληρονόμοις τῆς ἐπαγγελίας τὸ ἀμετάθετον τῆς βουλῆς αὐτοῦ, ἐμεσίτευσεν ὄρκῳ, ἵνα διὰ δύο πραγμάτων ἀμεταθέτων, ἐν οἷς ἀδύνατον ψεύσασθαι Θεόν, ἰσχυρὰν παράκλησιν ἔχωμεν οἱ καταφυγόντες κρατῆσαι τῆς προκειμένης ἐλπίδος· ἦν ὡς ἄγκυραν ἔχομεν τῆς ψυχῆς ἀσφαλῆ τε καὶ βεβαίαν καὶ εἰσερχομένην εἰς τὸ ἐσώτερον τοῦ καταπετάσματος, ὅπου πρόδρομος ὑπὲρ ἡμῶν εἰσηλθεν Ἰησοῦς, κατὰ τὴν τάξιν Μελχισεδέκ ἀρχιερεὺς γενόμενος εἰς τὸν αἰῶνα.

Pray and return to the Lord Your God.

Verse: In Judah God is known; His name is great in Israel.

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The reading is from Paul's Letter to the Hebrews. (6:13-20)

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Brethren, when God made a promise to Abraham, since he had no one greater by whom to swear, he swore to himself, saying, "Surely I will bless you and multiply you." And thus Abraham, having patiently endured, obtained the promise. Men indeed swear by a greater than themselves, and in all their disputes an oath is final for confirmation. So when God desired to show more convincingly to the heirs of the promise the unchangeable character of his purpose, he interposed with an oath, so that through two unchangeable things, in which it is impossible that God should prove false, we who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to seize the hope set before us. We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, a hope that enters into the inner shrine behind the curtain, where Jesus has gone as a forerunner on our behalf, having become a high priest for ever after the order of Melchizedek.

The Holy Gospel Reading according to St. Mark (9:17-31)

Fourth Sunday of Lent: Sunday of St. John Climacus

Τῷ καιρῷ ἐκείνῳ, ἄνθρωπός τις προσῆλθε τῷ Ἰησοῦ γονυπετῶν αὐτῷ καὶ λέγων· διδάσκαλε, ἤνεγκα τὸν υἱόν μου πρὸς σε, ἔχοντα πνεῦμα ἄλαλον. καὶ ὅπου ἂν αὐτὸν καταλάβῃ, ῥήσσει αὐτόν, καὶ ἀφρίζει καὶ τρίζει τοὺς ὀδόντας αὐτοῦ, καὶ ξηραίνεται· καὶ εἶπον τοῖς μαθηταῖς σου ἵνα αὐτὸ ἐκβάλωσι, καὶ οὐκ ἴσχυσαν. ὁ δὲ ἀποκριθεὶς αὐτῷ λέγει· ὦ γενεὰ ἄπιστος, ἕως πότε πρὸς ὑμᾶς ἔσομαι; ἕως πότε ἀνέξομαι ὑμῶν; φέρετε αὐτὸν πρὸς με. καὶ ἤνεγκαν αὐτὸν πρὸς αὐτόν. καὶ ἰδὼν αὐτὸν εὐθέως τὸ πνεῦμα ἐσπάραξεν αὐτόν, καὶ πεσὼν ἐπὶ τῆς γῆς ἐκυλίετο ἀφρίζων. καὶ ἐπηρώτησε τὸν πατέρα αὐτοῦ· πόσος χρόνος ἐστὶν ὡς τοῦτο γέγονεν αὐτῷ; ὁ δὲ εἶπε· παιδιόθεν. καὶ πολλάκις αὐτόν καὶ εἰς πῦρ ἔβαλε καὶ εἰς ὕδατα, ἵνα ἀπολέσῃ αὐτόν· ἀλλ' εἴ τι δύνασαι, βοήθησον ἡμῖν σπλαγχνισθεὶς ἐφ' ἡμᾶς. ὁ δὲ Ἰησοῦς εἶπεν αὐτῷ τὸ εἰ δύνασαι πιστεῦσαι, πάντα δυνατὰ τῷ πιστεύοντι. καὶ εὐθέως κράξας ὁ πατὴρ τοῦ παιδίου μετὰ δακρῶν ἔλεγε· πιστεύω, κύριε· βοήθει μου τῇ ἀπιστίᾳ. ἰδὼν δὲ ὁ Ἰησοῦς ὅτι ἐπισυντρέχει ὄχλος, ἐπετίμησε τῷ πνεύματι τῷ ἀκαθάρτῳ λέγων αὐτῷ· τὸ πνεῦμα τὸ ἄλαλον καὶ κωφόν, ἐγὼ σοι ἐπιτάσσω, ἐξέλθε ἐξ αὐτοῦ καὶ μηκέτι εἰσέλθῃς εἰς αὐτόν. καὶ κράξαν καὶ πολλὰ σπαράξαν αὐτόν ἐξῆλθε, καὶ ἐγένετο ὡσεὶ νεκρός, ὥστε πολλοὺς λέγειν ὅτι ἀπέθανεν. ὁ δὲ Ἰησοῦς κρατήσας αὐτόν τῆς χειρὸς ἤγειρεν αὐτόν, καὶ ἀνέστη. Καὶ εἰσελθόντα αὐτόν εἰς οἶκον οἱ μαθηταὶ αὐτοῦ ἐπηρώτων αὐτόν κατ' ἰδίαν, ὅτι ἡμεῖς οὐκ ἠδυνήθημεν ἐκβαλεῖν αὐτό. καὶ εἶπεν αὐτοῖς· τοῦτο τὸ γένος ἐν οὐδενὶ δύναται ἐξελεῖν εἰ μὴ ἐν προσευχῇ καὶ νηστείᾳ. Καὶ ἐκεῖθεν ἐξελθόντες παρεπορεύοντο διὰ τῆς Γαλιλαίας, καὶ οὐκ ἤθελεν ἵνα τις γινῶ· ἐδίδασκε γὰρ τοὺς μαθητὰς αὐτοῦ καὶ ἔλεγεν αὐτοῖς ὅτι ὁ υἱὸς τοῦ ἀνθρώπου παραδίδοται εἰς χεῖρας ἀνθρώπων, καὶ ἀποκτενοῦσιν αὐτόν, καὶ ἀποκτανθεὶς τῇ τρίτῃ ἡμέρᾳ ἀναστήσεται.

At that time, a man came to Jesus kneeling and saying: "Teacher, I brought my son to you, for he has a dumb spirit; and wherever it seizes him it dashes him down; and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid; and I asked your disciples to cast it out, and they were not able." And he answered them, "O faithless generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him to me." And they brought the boy to him; and when the spirit saw him, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth. And Jesus asked his father, "How long has he had this?" And he said, "From childhood. And it has often cast him into the fire and into the water, to destroy him; but if you can do anything, have pity on us and help us." And Jesus said to him, "If you can! All things are possible to him who believes." Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, "I believe; help my unbelief!" And when Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "You dumb and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him, and never enter him again." And after crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse; so that most of them said, "He is dead." But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. And when he had entered the house, his disciples asked him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?" And he said to them, "This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer and fasting." They went on from there and passed through Galilee. And he would not have any one know it; for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of man will be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill him; and when he is killed, after three days he will rise."

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GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

Rev. Fr. Theodore Ehmer

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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 March 22, 2026

Ushers on Duty: Jim + Cristina Lekas

Video: David N.

Altar Servers: All Adult/Youth Servers

Epistle Readers: Haris Sorovigas (Greek); Charles Glotzbach (English)

Fellowship Host (Thank You!): Danai Esquivel + Schyler Johnson

PC Member On-Duty: Chad Ridley



Today our Holy Orthodox Church commemorates:

- + Fourth Sunday of Great Lent: Commemoration of our Devout Father John, author of the Ladder (Κυριακή του Ιωάννου της Κλίμακος)

The memory of this Saint is celebrated on March 30, where his biography may be found. He is celebrated today because his book, The Ladder of Divine Ascent, is a sure guide to the ascetic life, written by a great man of prayer experienced in all forms of the monastic polity; it teaches the seeker after salvation how to lay a sound foundation for his struggles, how to detect and war against each of the passions, how to avoid the snares laid by the demons, and how to rise from the rudimental virtues to the heights of Godlike love and humility. It is held in such high esteem that it is universally read in its entirety in monasteries during the Great Fast.

- + The Holy Hieromartyr Basil (Βασίλειος), Presbyter of the Church of Ancyra (+362)

Saint Basil strove in martyrdom during the short reign of Julian the Apostate, from 361-363. The Saint was denounced as a Christian to Saturninus, Governor of Ancyra, who, when Basil would not deny Christ, had him hanged from a post and scraped on his sides, then beaten, and cast into prison. A few days later, when Julian himself came through Ancyra, the Saint was brought before him and was asked to deny Christ, Whom he rather confessed the more. Julian then had strips cut in his flesh, so that they were left hanging from his body in front and in back. The valiant Martyr tore one of these strips off of his body and cast it into Julian's face. At this Julian commanded that iron spits be heated fiery hot; Saint Basil's belly, his back, and all his joints were pierced with them, and he received the crown of martyrdom.

- + The Holy Women Martyrs Kallinike (Καλλίνικη) and Vasilissa (Βασίλισσα) of Rome (+252)

- + The Holy Martyr Drosis (Δροσιδα) and the five virgins with her (+104-117)

- + The Holy New Martyr Efthymios (Ευθύμιος) the Peloponnesian (+1814)

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. Basil (page 8 in the Pew Book):

- *Weekly Resurrectional Hymn (Εξ ύψους, 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 St. John Climacus (Κατέλυσας τω Σταυρώ σου, Grave Mode):*

With the rivers of your tears you made the barren desert bloom; and with your sighs from deep within, you made your labors bear their fruits a hundredfold; and you became a star, illuminating the world by your miracles, O John, our devout father. Intercede with Christ our God, for the salvation of our souls. (Greek Text found in hymnal on pg. 136)

- *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. (Sung before the Small Entrance and after the Resurrectional Hymn, Greek text found on the back of the bulletin)

- *The Kontakion of the Annunciation (Τη Υπερμάχω, Plagal Fourth Mode):*

O Champion General, I your City now inscribe to you Triumphant anthems as the tokens of my gratitude, Being rescued from the terrors, O Theotokos. Inasmuch as you have power unassailable, From all kinds of perils free me, so that unto you I may cry aloud: Rejoice, O unwedded Bride. (Greek Text found in hymnal on pg.268)

Guidance, Prayer Requests, and Announcements

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

Sunday, March 22: Sunday of St. John Climacus

Wine + Oil

John 20:11-18; Hebrews 6:13-20; Mark 9:17-31

Monday, March 23: St. Nikon the Martyr and 199 with him

Strict Fast

Isaiah 37:33-38:6; Genesis 13:12-18; Proverbs 14:27-15:4

Tuesday, March 24: Forefeast of the Annunciation

Strict Fast

Isaiah 40: 18-31; Genesis 15:1-15; Proverbs 15:7-19

Wednesday, March 25: Annunciation of the Theotokos

Fish, Oil & Wine Allowed

Luke 1:39-49, 56; Hebrews 2:11-18; Luke 1:24-38

Thursday, March 26: Synaxis of the Archangel Gabriel

Wine + Oil

Isaiah 42:5-16; Genesis 18:20-33; Proverbs 16:17-17:17

Friday, March 27: St. Matrona of Thessaloniki

Strict Fast

Isaiah 45:11-17, Genesis 22:1-18; Proverbs 17:17-18:5

Saturday, March 28: St. Hilarion the New

Wine + Oil

Hebrews 9:1-7; Luke 1:39-49, 56

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, Joellen, George, Yianni, Emilie, Pete, Sloan Georgia, Dimitris, Patricia, Luis Miguel, Debra, Lanny

Prayers for those recently reposed:

Bishop Demetrios (+February 19), Vasiliki (+February 22), Jonathan (+February 28) Kalliopi (+March 7), Irene (+March 8)

Prayers for expecting mothers:

Amanda, Kémie, Sophia

Prayers for Military Personnel and Their Families:

Benjamin George Davis, Joseph Fajloun, Kyle Glotzbach, Robert Ice, Joseph Viteri, Aleksander Zajac

Prayers for our Catechumens and Inquirers into the Orthodox Church:

Adam, Alexander, Amanda, Amber, Aryn, Avery, Billy, Bobbie, Brianna, Dakota, 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. Ephraim the Syrian reflecting upon the ministry of the Theotokos... "Come, let us wonder at the virgin most pure, wondrous in herself, unique in creation, she gave birth, yet knew no man; her pure soul with wonder was filled, daily her mind gave praise in joy at the twofold wonder: her virginity preserved, her child most dear.

Blessed is He who shone forth from her!"

Upcoming Celebrations This Week

Name Days—Chronia Polla, Many Years!

March 25: Evangelia Zaharakis

Birthdays—Happy Birthday!

March 23: Mary Hornbaker

March 24: Evangelia Zaharakis

March 26: Katerina Iakovidis

March 28: David Needham, Mary Katherine Saratsiotis

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:

* After the Orthros (5pm) and Divine Liturgy (6pm) we will have a **Light Lenten Meal along with a Spiritual Discussion**. This Wednesday, we will discuss the Annunciation of the Theotokos, which we celebrate this Wednesday, March 25th!

* **PASCHA LILIES DEDICATION** - If you would like to participate in the 2026 Paschal Lilies Dedication "In Memory of" or "For the Health of", please scan the QR Code and complete the form. You may place your payment in the box located in the Narthex (please specify on the memo line Paschal Lilies Dedication). Deadline is Palm Sunday, April 5th. Thank you!

* Join us for an **Easter Egg Hunt & Pascha Picnic** after the **Agape Vespers** on April 12. The Parish Council will provide lamb, and parishioners are asked to bring a side dish or dessert to share. Donations are appreciated to help cover costs. Please RSVP by April 5 to help with planning by scanning the QR Code.

* **Spring Fling** will be on Saturday, **May 2nd**. We will be setting up the Friday before after work. Please mark your calendars. We are asking all GOYANS, Young Adults & NSYA to please sign up to work this event (see link in Father's Bulletin email).

* Holy Cross will be hosting its next **Blood Drive** this Tuesday, March 24th from 3-7pm. Please see flyers in the Narthex and in the Parish House to schedule your appointment. We have not met our goal the past two or three drives. If you are available, please consider this beautiful gift of donation.

* As a reminder, during Great Lent, we celebrate the **Divine Liturgy of St. Basil**—please see the handouts in the pews!

* At the end of the Divine Liturgy today, we will have a short program honoring **Greek Independence Day** (March 25) - thank you to Haris Sorovigas, Greek School teacher, those who assisted with the program, and our youth!

* **We are seeking volunteers** for the following for Holy Week: 1) Kouvouklion Coordinator (decorating the tomb with flowers); 2) Readers for Holy Wednesday (Greek & English); 3) Resurrection Wreath (flowers will be supplied); and 4) Reader at the Agape Vespers on April 12 in different languages. If interested, please contact Natalia.

* **YARD SALE:** the Youth and Philoptochos are currently collecting *sellable* items for a joint fundraiser that will take place during the Spring Fling on 5/2.

* **YAM:** Join us for a hike at Sprewell Bluff on March 28th at 9:30am. A carpool will leave from the Church at 8am. Bring Breakfast. We will leave for lunch at 11:30am.