

Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church

SPRING 2026 QUARTERLY BULLETIN



859 First Street | Macon, Georgia 31201 | 478.621.0744

SUNDAY SERVICES

*(For services during the week,
please visit our webpage)*

Orthros 9:15am

Divine Liturgy 10:30am

Coffee Fellowship 12:00pm
(following Liturgy)

FIND US ONLINE

www.holycrossga.org

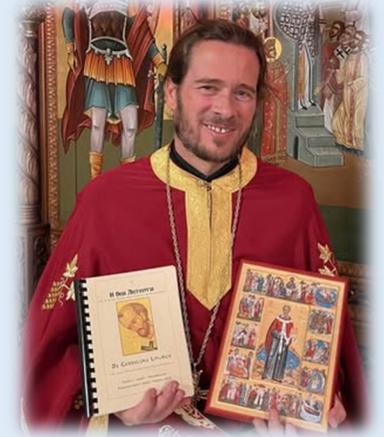
Facebook:
HolyCrossMaconGA

Instagram:
HolyCrossMacon

Father Theodore's Message

Today has been manifested as a day of festivity, as a day full of happiness. The bright light of very true dogmas shines like lightning. And Christ's Church is glowing, for she is once again adorned by the replacement and installation now of holy icons and depictions, and the light that they radiate. And a oneness of mind among the believers has God bestowed. – Orthros Hymn on the Sunday of Orthodoxy (celebrated the first Sunday of Great Lent)

My beloved brothers and sisters in Christ,
As you receive this Quarterly Bulletin and read this letter, we have already embarked on the beautiful and God-willing, fruitful journey of Great and Holy Lent. It truly is a journey, an entrance into the spiritual arena. It is a title of our year that we give to Christ, yet we receive a return from God who magnifies and multiplies our efforts. As I have mentioned several times at Church, I implore you to take advantage of everything (the services, the ministries, the fellowship, the studies, and more) that the Church has to offer during this Lenten Spring.



On the first Sunday of Great Lent, we celebrate the restoration of the Holy Icons in the Churches, commonly known as the Sunday of Orthodoxy. On this day we commemorate the return of the Holy Icons to the churches in the year 843. Over the previous one hundred or so years, the Church was vigorously fighting off attacks against the apostolic and ancient place of iconography in the Church. Even after the 7th Ecumenical Council in 787, the attacks on the Church were at times relentless. Yet, in 843, the victory over iconoclasm was complete and this is what we commemorate on the Sunday of Orthodoxy. Once again, the light that the Holy Icons radiate could adorn the sacred walls of the Church undisturbed – and by extension, the pious usage of the Holy Icons by the faithful in their own homes, as well.

As we celebrate the restoration of the Holy Icons, we also should be cognizant that in Christ, we also celebrate the restoration of the *icon* – the icon that we as man and woman are created to be. We read in the first chapter of Genesis that God created us in his image (eikona – image/icon). That image had been soiled through the fall, yet in Christ, as the Kontakion of the Sunday of Orthodoxy states, that icon “is restored to its primordial form.” We worship a God in Trinity, a God in communion. If we are truly being restored to that original image and beauty, this also calls for a restoration of that ancient communion with God and fellow human beings, as well.

The last part of the quoted hymn above is probably the most beautiful. “And a oneness of mind among the believers has God bestowed.” This should remind us of the Divine Liturgies that we celebrate every single Sunday and feast day in the Church. Just before the recitation of the Nicene Creed, the statement of our Orthodox Christian faith, the priest proclaims “let us love one another, that with one mind we may confess.” Love and oneness of mind are positioned with one another for a distinct reason. They are inseparable from one another. If there is one thing that we can cultivate in our lives during Great Lent, it is this. As people living in communion and community, it is inevitable that we have disagreements. It is inevitable that we hurt each other’s feelings or have our feelings hurt. However, we begin Great Lent and we arrive at Pascha with the great equalizer: forgiveness. Whether we “want” to or not, we begin Great Lent with asking forgiveness of one another. At Pascha, we sing “let us forgive one another for the Resurrection.” If we have truly invested our time, energy, and focus to Christ and His Church during Great Lent, it no longer feels like those are just words. They feel real. However, that has to start somewhere. Sometimes, we have to “fake it until we make it.” That forgiveness we ask of someone at the beginning of Lent might begin as words we feel obliged to say. Yet, if we truly traverse the time of Great Lent in humility, prayer, fasting, almsgiving, all the things that Christ and the Church implore us to, the forgiveness we asked is something we have been cultivating in our hearts and has truly borne fruit, contributing to that “oneness of mind” of the believers.

What a light and joyous thought this is. We see how bright our Church temple has become with the iconography adorning the walls. Just imagine how much brighter our Church will be, as we, the icons of God, shine brightly with the brilliant light and radiance of oneness of mind, forgiveness, and love. May this be our lot, my beloved brothers and sisters in Christ, during this sacred Lenten season.

In Christ's Love and Service,
Father Theodore

PARISH CLERGY
REV. FR. THEODORE EHMER
FRTHEODORE@HOLYCROSSGA.ORG

A Note from the Parish Council President

David Zoumberis, President | dzoumberis@yahoo.com



Father Theodore & Fellow Parishioners,

I am humbled and honored to be elected to the Parish Council and serve as President again. I consider Holy Cross as my home and family, and I am happy to serve as a Parish Council member. The progress and growth of our Holy Cross Church both in terms of the physical building and new members/Catechumens have been beautiful over the last few years. I am looking forward to a positive year as our Parish continues to grow. Over the years, our Parish has always relied on members to assist with the maintenance, operations and special events. We need everyone's talents to help our community thrive, from changing air filters to decorating Icons with flowers. If you are not sure where your talents can be offered, talk to one of the Parish Council members, and we will assist you in utilizing your skills and talents for the glory of God.

Wishing everyone a time to focus on prayer, fasting and almsgiving during Great Lent, Holy Week services, and celebrating the life-giving Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ at the Great and Holy Pascha.

In Christ's Love,
David Zoumberis

2026 PARISH COUNCIL

David Zoumberis, President
Natalia Saratsiotis, Vice-President
Maria Spicer, Treasurer
Kostas Iakovidis, Assistant Treasurer
Chad Ridley, Secretary
Kathye Patras, Assistant Secretary
Jim Lekas, Member-at-Large

Father Theodore & Fellow Parishioners,

As I write this final letter to you, I reflect on the past three years and the journey I began when I accepted the role of parish council president. First and foremost, thank you for entrusting me with the opportunity to serve and lead this parish. While no one is perfect, I always put Holy Cross first and did my very best. Was I perfect? No. But everything I did, I did with my whole heart and with love for our church.

When I look at how far we have come, I am truly grateful. The beautiful iconography that now adorns our walls is not only breathtaking, but also an invitation to prayer and spiritual conversation. Although I was born into Orthodoxy, I continue to learn about our faith every day. The iconography has been one of my most influential teachers, alongside the wisdom and guidance of our past and present priests.

Another long-standing topic has been the parking lot. I am pleased that, over a year ago, we began serious conversations with the hospital and that meaningful progress has been made. At our most recent General Assembly, we voted to move forward by pursuing this opportunity through a formal offer. I cannot thank everyone enough who attended and made this happen. The parish council remains committed to helping Holy Cross move forward. For those that do not attend General Assemblies, I encourage you to make your voice heard by attending and remaining engaged in the life of our parish.

We have also made important strides with the renovation of the back building. Inspections have been completed, and architects have helped us explore various possibilities for its future. These are significant projects, and it is important to remember that progress of this magnitude does not happen overnight.

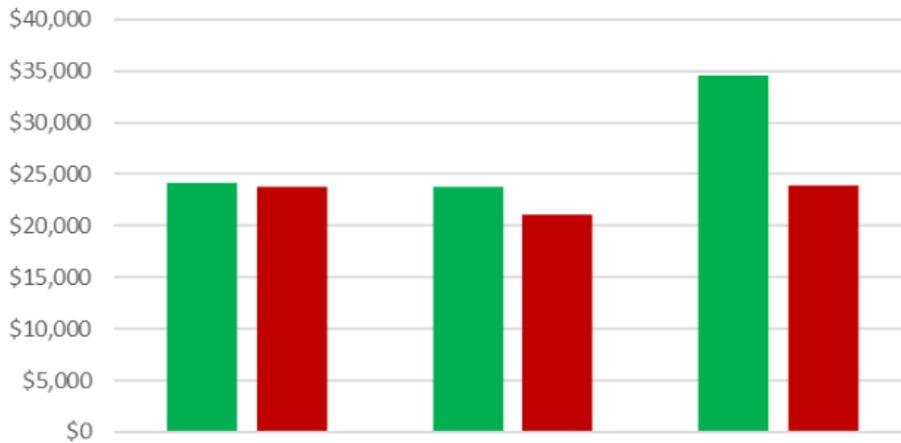
Lastly, I look forward to the year ahead and to working alongside our new parish council and former/current president, David Zoumberis. I truly believe that Holy Cross is in the hands of people who deeply love our church and our faith. Great things are happening, and they will continue to happen!

As we enter this Lenten Journey to Pascha, I look forward to seeing many of my brothers and sisters at the services in which Father Theodore is offering. I wasn't able to attend the Forgiveness Vespers, but I humbly ask for your forgiveness for any pain or sorrow I may have caused. May you have a blessed and fruitful journey to Pascha.

In Christ's Love, Natalia Saratsiotis

4TH QUARTER (OCT.-DEC.) FINANCIAL REPORT

FOURTH QUARTER FINANCIAL REPORT



FOURTH QUARTER (OCT-DEC)

	OCT	NOV	DEC
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 24,106.01	\$ 23,723.66	\$ 34,568.61
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 23,825.95	\$ 21,118.32	\$ 23,868.17
NET/DEFICIT	\$ 280.06	\$ 2,605.34	\$ 10,700.44

Thank you for all your contributions and continued support toward the growth and future of our Parish!

Please visit our web page at:
www.holycrossga.org

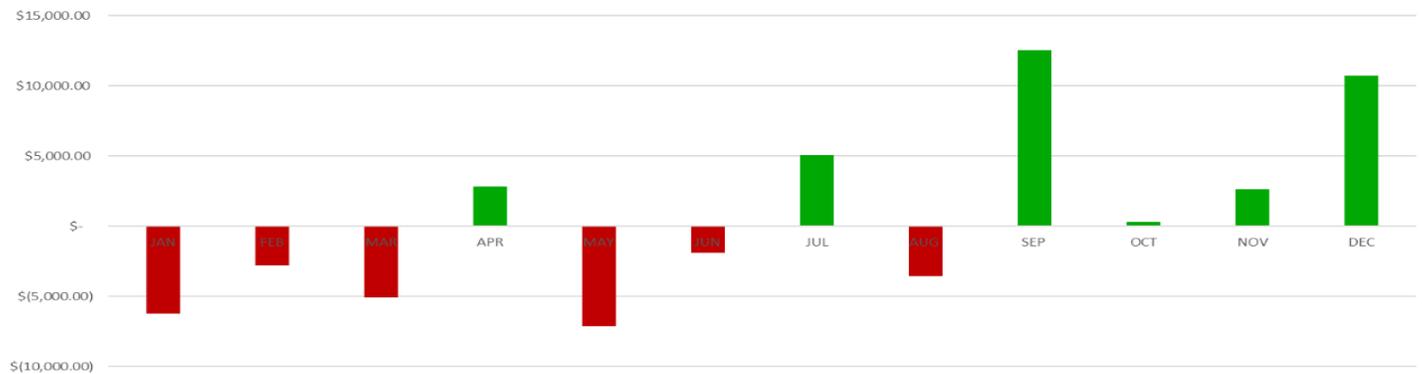
The Offering link will give you all the options available for any financial giving.

Venmo & PayPal
@HolyCrossMacon
CashApp \$HolyCrossMacon

Maria Spicer
2026 PC Treasurer

Kostas Iakovidis,
2026 PC Asst Treasurer

NET / DEFICIT PER MONTH

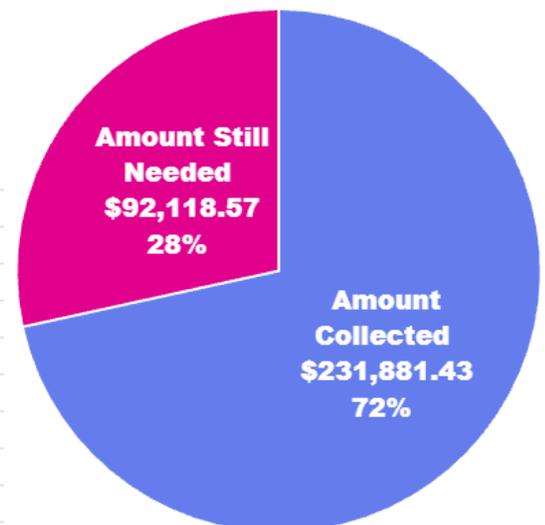


ICONOGRAPHY PROGRESS

The pie chart on the right reflects the funds that have already been collected and are currently on hand. Below are the amounts that have been pledged. Please note that all pledges were made on a three-year commitment schedule, which will conclude next year.

Year	Amount Collected	Amount Still Needed
GOAL	\$ 231,881.43	\$ 92,118.57
up to 2023	\$ 62,301.08	\$ 261,698.92
2024	\$ 29,287.41	\$ 232,411.51
2025	\$ 127,862.94	\$ 104,548.57
2026	\$ 12,430.00	\$ 92,118.57
UPCOMING...		
<i>Pledges Balance (3-year)</i>	\$ 77,550.00	\$ 14,568.57

Iconography Progress



STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

TASSIE CANTRELL, CHARLES GLOTZBACH & BETH ZOUMBERIS

To every member of our parish who read the Stewardship Report in our last Quarterly Bulletin and responded to the call to action: THANK YOU!

Currently, Holy Cross has received 41 Commitment Cards and contributions from loving members who have intentionally dedicated their support to the church. What a blessing it is to be an active participant in our shared journey toward Theosis. In addition, 15 other individuals have contributed to Holy Cross financially. This brings us to a total of 56 parishioners out of the 127 families listed in our parish records, including several catechumens.

This Quarter's CALL TO ACTION:

If you have not submitted a Stewardship Commitment Card, PLEASE- Don't Wait. OUR GOAL IS 100% PARTICIPATION! Give Generously! Give Joyously! Give Regularly! No amount is too small when given from the heart. Make this your part of your personal commitment to faithfully support our beloved Holy Cross Church. May God richly bless each and every one of you as we walk this journey together, building a stronger and more united Holy Cross, becoming living witnesses of a life in Christ.

With gratitude and hope,
The Stewardship Committee:
Tassie Cantrell, Charles Glotzbach
& Beth Zoumberis

Stewardship Pledge cards are available in the Narthex, next to the Sunday service bulletins. If you have not submitted a Stewardship Pledge Card, please fill out the card and place it in the box in the Narthex or mail it in to:

Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church
Attention: Treasurer
859 1st St
Macon, GA 31201

Prefer to give online?
We've made it simple:
Venmo: @HolyCrossMacon
CashApp: \$HolyCrossMacon

Supporting Our Church Beyond Tithes

Ways to Contribute to the Liturgical Life of Our Parish

As Orthodox Christians, we are called to support the Church not only through tithing but also by contributing to its spiritual and material needs. Below are some meaningful ways you can help sustain the liturgical life of our parish.

Liturgical Supplies

CANDLES	CHARCOAL & INCENSE	COMMUNION WINE
		
Used for services, prayer corners and feast days	Used during Divine Liturgy, Vespers and other services	Used for the Eucharist (Nama)
Annual cost: approximately \$2,500	Annual cost: approximately \$500	Annual cost: approximately \$500

Other Contributions

- **Prospora (offering bread)** – baked or donated by parishioners
- **Cleaning Supplies or Maintenance Help** – to keep the church beautiful
- **General Donations** – to be used where the church sees there is a need for

How to Give

You may donate for specific items by placing an envelope marked with the item name in the offering basket, or by going online to holycrossga.org/stewardship and using our online giving platform with a note specifying your contribution. You may also choose to sponsor a month's worth of incense or wine.

Spiritual Encouragement

"Let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver." — 2 Corinthians 9:7

GREEK SPRING FLING

GYROS · GREEK FRIES
LOUKANIKO · PASTITSIO · SPANAKOPITA
TIROPITAS · LOUKOUMADES

MAY 2, 2026 11AM – 7PM

HOLY CROSS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
859 FIRST STREET | DOWNTOWN MACON
WWW.HOLYCROSSGA.ORG/SPRING-FLING

We Need You!
Scan the QR
Code and sign
up today!



Save the Date and
TAKE A HIKE!
..with the HC Young Adult Ministry!
@ Sprewell Bluff Park
March 28, 2026 @ 9:30am

WEDNESDAYS AT 5:45PM
During Great Lent



JOIN US FOR 9TH HOUR,
PRESANCTIFIED LITURGY,
A LIGHT LENTEN MEAL,
AND A SPIRITUAL
READING DISCUSSION

Bearing Myrrh

Extending the beauty, compassion,
and steadfastness of our faith into
our daily lives



METROPOLIS OF ATLANTA PHILOPTOCHOS SPIRITUAL RETREAT

PLANNED ACTIVITIES:

- Friday Night Salutations
- Excellent Sessions by our Speaker
- Lake Side exercise class
- Arts and Crafts
- Time for quiet reflection
- Opportunities for Confession
- Chapter Sharing
- Time by the fire pit in the evening

GUEST SPEAKER
EDNA KING

Family Life Ministry of Atlanta
Orthodox Author



**MARCH
20-22
2026**

ALEXIOS RETREAT CENTER
Salem, SC



REGISTRATION
LINK AVAILABLE AT
THIS OR CODE

TOTAL COST FOR
RETREAT \$250

FOR MORE INFORMATION: <https://atmetropolis.org/spiritual-retreat-2026> sarah.e.kalaris@gmail.com

HOLY CROSS PHILOPTOCHOS & YOUTH JOINT FUNDRAISER!

YARD-SALE

SPRING CLEANING AND
ORGANIZING?!

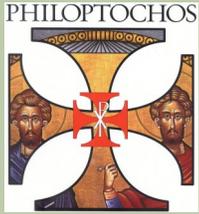
PLEASE SET ASIDE SELLABLE
DONATIONS THAT ARE IN
GOOD CONDITION

BRING THEM TO CHURCH
AT ANY TIME

CONTACT PRESV. STACEY
OR SARAH IF YOU HAVE
QUESTIONS ABOUT ITEMS
TO DONATE

THANK YOU IN ADVANCE
FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

**DURING THE SPRING FLING
AT CHURCH ON MAY 2, 2026!**



Our Mission:

*To promote charitable, benevolent and philanthropic outreach;
to preserve the sanctity of life and family;
and to perpetuate and promote our Orthodox faith and traditions.*

The Greek Orthodox Ladies Philoptochos Society, rooted in the values of the Orthodox faith, is a beacon of hope and charity. Dedicated to humanitarian efforts, we strive to make a meaningful impact on society. Our mission encompasses a broad spectrum of philanthropic initiatives, ranging from aiding the underprivileged to preserving cultural traditions. Join us in our journey of faith, charity, and community service.

<https://www.philoptochos.org/>

Dear Father Theodore and Fellow Parishioners,

In the spirit of Great Lent, I greet you in hopes that you will forgive me for my shortcomings and times when I have hurt you both knowingly and unknowingly. As we move through our lives, we are often surprised at how much time we spend just getting things done, checking the boxes and getting ahead. Our journey through Lent is a time to slow down and follow the teachings of our Orthodox Faith. We should focus on prayer, fasting, love, forgiveness and finding peace within ourselves. Everyday life can be so discouraging and disappointing but the church can give us hope and help our hearts heal from the pain that we all deal with. When we are kind to others, pray for each other, pray and reflect- the hurt will go away and we can truly feel the spirit of hope and renewal.

I am proud of everything our chapter is accomplishing but we need to continue to grow and do more to help our Parish and our local community. In order to do this we need everyone to step up and say yes more fully. Our ministry is often called upon to say "yes" before we see the whole path ahead. Service, sacrifice and generosity begin with courageous trust, even if we don't know how God's plan will unfold.

If you would like to attend this year's National Philoptochos Convention in Cleveland, Ohio as a delegate and a chapter representative, please let me know. In addition, The Metropolis of Atlanta Philoptochos is hosting a retreat at the Alexios (Diakonia) Retreat Center March 20-22, if you are interested please see the flyer for registration information.

We will have many opportunities for you to get involved in the next few months and we would love everyone to get involved. If you have questions or suggestions, please reach out to me or any board member.

Faithfully, Sarah Drakopoulos, President



WANT TO BE A DELEGATE? CONTACT SARAH FOR MORE INFORMATION...



NATIONAL WEAR RED SUNDAY 2026

RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE MEAL PREPARATION ON VALENTINE'S DAY

CHRISTMAS PASTRY TRAYS ASSEMBLY DAY. THANK YOU AGAIN FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF OUR FUNDRAISER!



Presvytera Stacey Ehmer
Sunday School Director
pres.stacey@holycrossga.org

Youth

Dear Holy Cross Family, Blessed Lent to you all! In your mercy, please forgive me for any unloving words I have spoken or ways that I have hurt your heart or upset you. This is longer than usual, thanks in advance for sticking with me!

On February 8th, we held our annual Parish Level St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival was a great blessing to witness! I thank the parents for their support and the kids (including many pre-k through 6th grade students!!) who courageously shared something of their Orthodox Faith! Caroline (a brave first-time "official" speaker!) spoke to us about the Old Testament story of Noah and the Ark, referencing the country song "Jesus Take the Wheel," and tied in themes of trusting God and not worrying about things out of our control because the Lord lovingly leads us. Isabelle taught us about the icon of the Transfiguration of Christ, highlighting the dual natures of Christ - fully God and fully Man - and also the reactions of Peter, James, and John when they witnessed the Transfiguration of Christ. She thoughtfully reflected on how we can be transfigured in our own lives in Christ, little by little, through His love and grace. Carter (a senior in his last year participating as a speaker!) spoke to us about St. John's teachings contrasting darkness and Light in his Holy Gospel and letters. He beautifully intertwined references of the early Fathers of the Church and connected what that means for us in our goal of following Christ on a lifelong journey towards Theosis, and reminding us that the Resurrectional Light cannot be overcome. Truly all of the speeches were wonderful, and we are beaming with love and joy for our Holy Cross Youth! Holy Cross is hosting the District Level (10 "area" churches) and their finalists on Saturday morning, **March 14th**; you're invited to come listen and watch! It is humbling to hear the words, reflections, and faith of Orthodox youth.

I thank René for stepping seamlessly into Gray's position as the older kids' Sunday School teacher after the Yateses moved to TN, and I thank Ms. Helen for her constant and generous and loving work with our younger students. Note: The last day of Sunday School, along with our traditional celebratory ice-cream sundaes during coffee hour, is **May 17th**. Separately, the Metropolis of Atlanta St. Stephen's Summer Camp (for rising 6th-12th graders) at the ARC (Alexios, formerly "Diakonia", Retreat Center) is **June 21st - July 25th**. Families choose one week of the five options. Registration starts Thursday, **March 5th** at noon, and warning - it sells out fast! Grant opportunities to assist with the cost are available for each one of our Holy Cross campers that attends! Questions? Let me know!

Saturday of Lazarus and Holy Week/Pascha is **April 4th - 12th**. Please prioritize this MOST EXQUISITE time in our church by bringing your kids to the services as much as you are able. More information about opportunities specific to the kids will follow. During the Spring Fling on **May 2nd**, the Philoptochos along with the Youth will be having a Yard Sale Fundraiser! People can enjoy their Gyros and Fries and peruse possible treasures! We'll have a tent and tables that need volunteers that day, as well as pricing/organizing prep volunteers the week of the Spring Fling. As you're doing your spring cleaning and organizing, please set aside sellable donations that are in *good condition*. You are welcome to bring them to church at any time; there's a spot set aside in the back building for them to be stored until May. Looking way ahead so that you can write it into your calendars now - the 5th Annual Pan-Orthodox Cross Dive at Lake Tobesofkee is set in stone for Saturday, **September 19th!**

Finally - I NEED YOUR HELP with the Youth! I need your fresh ideas for service opportunities, outings, fellowship, and mini "retreats" or lessons. Do you have ideas?! Let's talk!!! Email or call me or find me in person!

Love in Christ,

Presvytera Stacey
Sunday School Director
pres.stacey@holycrossga.org
770-827-7145



We love St. Nicholas!



2025 Nativity Pageant



Operation Classroom Update:

On behalf of Philoptochos, Denna Bradford presented the nurses at MLK Elementary with supplies for their clinic. We are currently collecting donations of copy paper and black thin dry erase markers, amongst other things the teachers need. See box in the narthex!



On February 8th, 2026 Parish Level St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival! We were humbled and inspired by our budding theologians, who spoke beautifully honoring our Faith, and emulating St. John the "Golden Mouthed". We enjoyed presentations from preschoolers through 12th grade. This year marks the 42nd annual National St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival! What a beautiful opportunity this ministry of the Archdiocese Department of Education provides!



On January 21st, Daniel Vogt was sworn in to the US Army; he will ship out to Basic Training at Fort Benning at the end of March. This was his long term goal, coming back from transplant surgery after serious illness, and working to increase his mental, physical, and spiritual endurance. Join us in prayer for Daniel and all of our military personnel brothers and sisters in Christ and their families!



Theophany 2026

HOLY SACRAMENTS & SERVICES

Welcome to all of our Catechumens!



January 11th: Debbie Rankin and Avery Edmondson



January 25th: Amber Morris, Grayson Cook, and Philip, Deia, and Gabriel Horne

Baptism



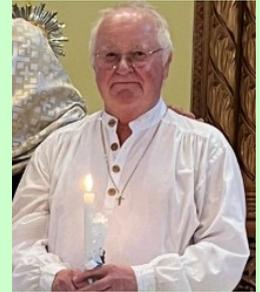
On February 21st, Daniel Vogt was received into the Orthodox Church through Baptism and Chrismation. His sponsors are Spyros and Emily Dermatas.

40-Day Blessing

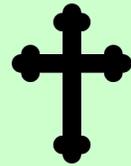


January 25th, Emily Rivers and her baby Sebastian were churched. We pray for their family.

Funeral



James Scarborough
August 7, 1951
January 10, 2026



May His Memory
Be Eternal!

Congratulations & God Grant You Many Years!

Please join us in celebrating our Lord's Glorious Resurrection together!

PASCHA PICNIC & EGG HUNT

GREAT & HOLY PASCHA - SUNDAY, APRIL 12TH
AGAPE VESPERS STARTS AT 12 NOON
EGG HUNT & POTLUCK PICNIC IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING!

Lamb is provided! See Potluck email to RSVP & sign up for sides, bevs, & desserts!



Hosted by the Parish Council
Donations to off-set lamb cost are kindly accepted.

SUNDAY
March 15th
Lenten
LUNCHEON

On the 3rd Sunday of Great Lent, observing the Veneration of the Holy Cross, our annual Lenten Luncheon donations will be collected and sent to Hellenic College Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology

PHILOTOCHOS

SAVE THE DATE!

5TH ANNUAL PAN-ORTHODOX
CROSS DIVE
2026
MACON, GA
HOLY CROSS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

SAT., SEPT. 19TH



American Red Cross
BLOOD DRIVE
MARCH 24TH & MAY 27TH
3PM-7PM | PARISH HOUSE
Give Blood • Give Life

SCAN THE QR CODE TO SCHEDULE YOUR APPOINTMENT TODAY! PLEASE CONSIDER SIGNING UP AND DONATING BLOOD!





On February 17th, We wished Fr. Theodore MANY YEARS on his name day. May St. Theodore intercede for him always!!



Several of our Holy Cross faithful pilgrimaged to St. Philothea Greek Orthodox Church in Watkinsville (just outside of Athens), Ga for Great Vespers, Artoklasia (blessing of the five loaves), and a very festive Panagiri celebration in honor of their church's feast day on February 18th! May St. Philothei of Athens intercede for us all!



3 candles melted into one on Theophany during the Great Blessing of the Waters.



Fr. Theodore traveled to South Carolina to the Alexios (Diakonia) Retreat Center for the bi-annual meetings with His Eminence Metropolitan Sevastianos and brother priests throughout the Metropolis of Atlanta. Special guest, Fr. Vasileios Thermos, a priest and practicing psychologist visiting from Greece, shared of his knowledge and wisdom with the clergy.



Fr. Theodore, Basil and Presvytera Stacey delivered food bags to classrooms at Union Elementary on February 27th.



January 17th was Fr. Theodore's 11th anniversary of his ordination to the Holy Diaconate! Axios!



GODPARENT SUNDAY 2026 FEBRUARY 8TH



On the Sunday after the Great Feast of the Meeting of the Lord in the Temple, we honor the special relationship we have with our God Family on "Godparent Sunday"; we give glory to God for the important role they play in our lives as Orthodox Christians!



HOLY CROSS NATIVITY PAGEANT 2025



ST. MODESTOS PET BLESSING ON DECEMBER 14TH IN THE CHURCH COURTYARD.





We celebrated the New Year and St. Basil with the traditional blessing and cutting of the Vasilopites! Axioi (worthy!) to Natalia Saratsiotis, Nicolas Morin, Milijana Hansee, Maria Murphy, Joachim Ehmer, Jr. Esquivel, Pete Tsamolias, Mina Stewart, and Fr. Theodore who received the extra blessing of finding the coins! Thank you to everyone who baked a Vasilopita and everyone who donated to St. Basil Academy. May St. Basil the Great intercede for us all!



HAPPY

NEW



YEAR

2026!



HOLY CROSS OUTINGS & FELLOWSHIP



NOT-SO-YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY PASTA POTLUCK AND GAME NIGHT ON FEB. 20TH. THANKS TO ERICK AND CHERYL FOR HOSTING!



NOT-SO-YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY AT THE MERCER UNIVERSITY BASKETBALL GAME ON JANUARY 31ST. GO BEARS!



Amanda Piper and her family with the Nativity icon she adorned with flowers. If you'd like to help decorate the Kouvouklion (the Lord's Tomb) with flowers on Holy Friday morning, or help with other Lenten preparations, please see the google signup link in your email or in the Internal FB page! Or, email office@holycrossga.org for more info.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM OUR ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CAROLING CARAVAN ADVENTURE!



Our beautiful choir singing carols on Christmas Eve after the Divine Liturgy.



On Saturday February 27th, a group of Philotochos members packed food bags for the backpack ministry.

On Feb. 3rd, the Young Adult Ministry traveled to Dublin, GA to see Moses the Black, a special limited release movie by Orthodox director Yelena Popovic.



OUR JOURNEY TO PASCHA! 2026

Created by Fr. Jonathan Bannon (ACROD)

SUNDAYS	THEMES / GOSPEL READING	HOW TO PARTICIPATE:
Fast - Free Week FEBRUARY 1st	 <i>TRIODION WEEKS</i> Publican and the Pharisee Epistle: 2 Timothy 3:10-15 Gospel: Luke 18:10-14	Show compassion on the poor and distressed. Trust in God, not yourself and ask for His help before every task this week.
Normal Fast Week FEBRUARY 8th	 The Prodigal Son Returns! Epistle: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20 Gospel: Luke 15:11-32	Schedule a Confession. Every morning say, "Today I will be humble." Use up/freeze meats this week.
Meatfare FEBRUARY 15th FAREWELL TO MEAT TODAY	 The Last Judgement Epistle: 1 Corinthians 8:8-9:2 Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46	Pray facing East this week. Christ is returning from the East and we wait for Him! Use up/freeze dairy this week.
Cheesefare FEBRUARY 22nd FAREWELL TO CHEESE TODAY	 Adam and Eve are cast from Paradise! <i>FORGIVENESS SUNDAY</i> Epistle: Romans 13:11-14:4 Gospel: Matthew 6:14-21	Ask each other for forgiveness each evening this week before bed.
1st Sunday of Lent MARCH 1st	 <i>GREAT LENT BEGINS WITH FORGIVENESS VESPERS</i> SUNDAY of ORTHODOXY Epistle: Hebrews 11:24-26, 32-12:2 Gospel: John 1:43-51	Bring an icon to church for a procession.
2nd Sunday of Lent MARCH 8th	 ST GREGORY PALAMAS Epistle: Hebrews 1:10-2:3 Gospel: Mark 2:1-12	Bring a prayer rope to be blessed today! Use it and pray the Jesus Prayer each day this week.
3rd Sunday of Lent MARCH 15th	 VENERATION OF THE HOLY CROSS <i>HALF WAY TO PASCHA!</i> Epistle: Hebrews 4:14-5:6 Gospel: Mark 8:34-9:1	Wear your cross to church and kiss the cross each morning with a bow!
4th Sunday of Lent MARCH 22nd	 ST JOHN of the LADDER Epistle: Hebrews 6:13-20 Gospel: Mark 9:17-31	Every time you climb stairs this week ask St. John to help you reach Paradise with the sign of the cross!
5th Sunday of Lent MARCH 29th	 ST MARY of EGYPT Epistle: Hebrews 9:11-14 Gospel: Mark 10:32-45	Ask the Theotokos to offer you and the world pure thoughts and ideas this week.
FLOWERY (PALM) SUNDAY! APRIL 5th GREAT WEEK BEGINS	 <i>GREAT AND HOLY WEEK</i> ENTRY OF OUR LORD INTO JERUSALEM Epistle: Philippians 4:4-9 Gospel: John 12:1-18	Place your palm branches and pussywillows behind an icon at home and in your car!
GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY APRIL 10th	 GREAT AND HOLY FRIDAY <i>JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS</i> CHECK WITH YOUR PARISH FOR ROYAL HOURS AND VESPERS SCHEDULE	Refrain from TV, Internet & Phones to honor Christ's Death.
FEAST OF FEASTS! APRIL 12th NO FASTING!	 <i>BRIGHT WEEK</i> HOLY PASCHA! (CHRIST IS RISEN!) Epistle: Acts 1:1-8 Gospel: John 1:1-17	Greet everyone with "CHRIST IS RISEN!" & say it before good morning and goodnight!

PC ON DUTY, EPISTLE READERS & FELLOWSHIP HOUR SCHEDULE

DATE	PC MEMBER ON DUTY	GREEK READER	ENGLISH READER	FELLOWSHIP HOST
March 1	Natalia Saratsiotis	Pete Tsamolias	René Esquivel	Tassie Cantrell
March 8	Maria Spicer	Kostas Iakovidis	CJ Newberry	Beth Zoumberis
March 15	Kostas Iakovidis	George Saratsiotis	Isabelle Saratsiotis	Philoptochos (Lenten Luncheon)
March 22	Chad Ridley	Haris Sorovigas	Charles Glotzbach	Danai Esquivel & Schyler Johnson
March 29	Kathye Patras	Chad Ridley	Carter Zoumberis	Katerina Iakovidis
April 5	Jim Lekas	Aleca Hortman	Ethan Pellegrino	Philoptochos (Palm Sunday Luncheon)
April 12	David Zoumberis	Pete Tsamolias	Richard Stewart	Parish Council (Pascha Luncheon)
April 19	Natalia Saratsiotis	Helen Troupous	Cheryl Schwartzkopf	Toula Tsamolias
April 26	Maria Spicer	Haris Sorovigas	Nicholas True	Haris Sorovigas
May 3	Kostas Iakovidis	George Saratsiotis	Caroline Saratsiotis	Eleni Adams
May 10	Chad Ridley	Kostas Iakovidis	Cleo Bennette	Cristina Lekas & Sofia Lekas
May 17	Kathye Patras	Chad Ridley	Sarah Drakopoulos	Maria Bronisevsky & Joanna Patronis
May 24	Jim Lekas	Aleca Hortman	Mike Cantrell	Chad Ridley
May 31	David Zoumberis	Helen Troupous	Beth Zoumberis	Helen Vardy

BIRTHDAYS, NAME DAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

If you would like your birthday, Name Day, and/or anniversary listed in our weekly bulletins or if there is a correction that needs to be made, please email the office and we will add it to our master list. Please email office@holycrossga.org for any corrections.

March

3.02	*Chad Ridley (N) *Chris Berberidis (B) *Mary Emma Ridley (B)	4.18 4.19	*Tim Murphy (B) *Cornelius Chiorescu (B) *Thomas Roden (N) *Tom Zdrakas (N)	5.03	*Dragos Filimon (B) *Tennessee Morris (B) *Mary Claire Zoumberis (B) *Terri & James Andros (A)
3.05	*Adam Edmondson (B)	4.19	*Georgia Karras (B)	5.04	*Sarah Drakopoulos (B) *Maria Mahoney (B)
3.07	*Helen Troupous (B)	4.21	*Sofia Danforth (B)	5.05	*Theo Drakopoulos (B)
3.09	*Avery Edmondson (B)		*Antigone Michalakis (B)	5.06	*Paul Vrahiotes (B)
3.10	*Andrew Adams (B)		*Christine Sprouse (B)		*Beth & David Zoumberis (A)
3.11	*Steve Douglas (B)		*Mina Stewart (B)	5.08	*Alyssa Syribey (B)
3.13	*Anne Gordy (B) *Darryl Piper (B)	4.23	*George Cazacu (N) *George Benjamin Davis (N) *George Drakopoulos (N)	5.10	*Amanda "Isidora" Smith (N) *Rebekah Bradford (B) *Madilynn Zoumberis (B)
3.14	*Gavin Coleman (B) *Chloe Goss (B)		*George Gordy (N) *Reagan Habib (N) *Norberto George Hernandez (N)	5.12	*Marianna & Justin Lane (A) *Emily & William Rivers (A) *Katina Cacavias Brock (B) *Lindsey Yates (B)
3.17	*Alexa Economopoulos (N) *Norman Adams (B)		*George Iakovidis (N) *Jace "George" Johnson (N) *Georgia Karras (N)	5.14	*Gaynor & Mike Cheokas (A) *Jennifer Kangas (B)
3.28	*Chuck Cain (B)		*George Lane (N)	5.15	*Robert "Dymphnos" Ice (N) *Dylan Johnson (N)
3.19	*Joseph Fajloun (N) *Paige Crouse (B)		*Tennessee "George" Morris (N) *George Saratsiotis (N)	5.17	*Antonios Roden (B) *Joanna Patronis (B)
3.20	*Henry Gordy (N)		*George Stefanis (N)	5.18	*David Lee Bradford (B)
3.21	*Pete Nicholas (B)		*Richard "George" Stewart (N)	5.19	*Eaterina & Ron Fuertes (A) *Cheryl "Lydia" Branning-Pilla (N)
3.23	*Mary Hornbaker (B)		*George Tserpelis (N)	5.20	*Eleni Adams (N)
3.24	*Evangelia Zaharakis (B)		*Georgia Tserpelis (N)	5.21	*Konstantinos Berberidis (N) *Denna Bradford (N) *Eleni Dermatas (N)
3.25	*Evangelia Zaharakis (N)		*Maggie "Elizabeth" Bennette (N) *Caroline "Elizabeth" Saratsiotis (N)		*Eleni Grace Esquivel (N) *Kostas Iakovidis (N)
3.26	*Charles Glotzbach (B) *Katerina Iakovidis (B)		*Elizabeth Saratsiotis (N) *Beth Zoumberis (N) *Tony Bennette (B) *Maegan & Billy Hughes (A)	4.25	*Schyler "Helen" Johnson (N) *Eleni Saratsiotis (N) *Helen Troupous (N) *Helen Vardy (N)
3.28	*David Needham (B) *Mary Katherine Saratsiotis (B)	4.24	*George Tserpelis (N) *Georgia Tserpelis (N) *Maggie "Elizabeth" Bennette (N) *Caroline "Elizabeth" Saratsiotis (N)	4.26	*Petyon "Constantine" Ward (N) *Peyton Ward (B) *Ana-Maria Filimon (B)
3.30	*Joan Cabral (B) *Mikey Cantrell (B) *Vuc Habic (B) *Lucas Lekas (B) *Peter Tsamolias (B)		*Elizabeth Saratsiotis (N) *Beth Zoumberis (N) *Tony Bennette (B) *Maegan & Billy Hughes (A)	4.28	*David Zoumberis (B) *Vincent Rivers (N) *Elianna Vallianatos (B) *Erzsebet Santon (B) *Emmy Young (B)
			*Maria & Greg Spicer (A) *Nadia-Gabriela Cazacu (B) *Jace Johnson (B) *Tony Kallergis (B) *Remi Dempsey (B)	4.29	*Cleo & Tony Bennette (A) *Steve "Bede" Douglas (N) *Nick Dermatas (B) *Emma Gordy (N) *Emmy "Emmelia" Young (N)
			*Helen & Ray Vardy (A) *Wyatt "Jason" Morris (N) *George Lane (B) *Lisa Jones (B) *Maria Murphy (B) *Eleni Saratsiotis (B)	5.22	*Bessie Andros (B) *John Mason (B) *Thomas Roden (B)
			*Maegan & Billy Hughes (A) *Elizabeth Saratsiotis (B) *Maria & Greg Spicer (A) *Nadia-Gabriela Cazacu (B) *Jace Johnson (B) *Tony Kallergis (B) *Remi Dempsey (B)	5.23	
			*Helen & Ray Vardy (A) *Wyatt "Jason" Morris (N) *George Lane (B) *Lisa Jones (B) *Maria Murphy (B) *Eleni Saratsiotis (B)	5.24	
			*Maegan & Billy Hughes (A) *Elizabeth Saratsiotis (B) *Maria & Greg Spicer (A) *Nadia-Gabriela Cazacu (B) *Jace Johnson (B) *Tony Kallergis (B) *Remi Dempsey (B)	5.25	
			*Helen & Ray Vardy (A) *Wyatt "Jason" Morris (N) *George Lane (B) *Lisa Jones (B) *Maria Murphy (B) *Eleni Saratsiotis (B)	5.26	
			*Maegan & Billy Hughes (A) *Elizabeth Saratsiotis (B) *Maria & Greg Spicer (A) *Nadia-Gabriela Cazacu (B) *Jace Johnson (B) *Tony Kallergis (B) *Remi Dempsey (B)	5.27	
			*Helen & Ray Vardy (A) *Wyatt "Jason" Morris (N) *George Lane (B) *Lisa Jones (B) *Maria Murphy (B) *Eleni Saratsiotis (B)	5.29	
			*Maegan & Billy Hughes (A) *Elizabeth Saratsiotis (B) *Maria & Greg Spicer (A) *Nadia-Gabriela Cazacu (B) *Jace Johnson (B) *Tony Kallergis (B) *Remi Dempsey (B)	5.30	
			*Helen & Ray Vardy (A) *Wyatt "Jason" Morris (N) *George Lane (B) *Lisa Jones (B) *Maria Murphy (B) *Eleni Saratsiotis (B)		
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March 2026



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Sunday of Orthodoxy 9:15am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy (Sunday School following Communion) Procession of Holy Icons 12:00pm Fellowship 5:00pm Pan-Orthodox Vespers at the Cathedral in Atlanta	2	3 5:00pm Great Compline	4 5:45pm 9th Hour & Pre-Sanctified Liturgy 7:15pm Light Lenten Meal & Spiritual Book Discussion	5	6 6:00pm 2nd Salutations to the Theotokos	7 5:00pm Great Vespers
8 Sunday of St. Gregory Palamas 9:15am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy (Sunday School following Communion) 12:00pm Fellowship 3:00pm "Stop the Bleed" Training 5:00pm Pan-Orthodox Vespers @ Holy Cross	9	10 5:00pm Great Compline 6:15pm Oratorical Festival Committee Meeting	11 5:45pm 9th Hour & Pre-Sanctified Liturgy 7:15pm Light Lenten Meal & Spiritual Book Discussion	12	13 6:00pm 3rd Salutations to the Theotokos	14 10:00am District-Level St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival 3:00pm Great Vespers
15 Sunday of the Holy Cross 9:15 am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy Procession of the Holy Cross at the end of Liturgy 12:30pm Fellowship 1:00pm Bible Study / Youth Greek School	16	17 5:00pm Great Compline 6:00pm Parish Council Meeting	18 5:45pm 9th Hour & Pre-Sanctified Liturgy 7:15pm Light Lenten Meal & Spiritual Book Discussion	19	20 6:00pm 4th Salutations to the Theotokos	21 5:00pm Great Vespers
22 Sunday of St. John Climacus 9:15am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy (Sunday School following Communion) Greek School Program 12:00pm Fellowship	23	24 3:00-7:00pm Blood Drive	25 Annunciation of the Theotokos Greek Independence Day 5:00pm Orthros 6:00pm Divine Liturgy 7:15pm Light Lenten Meal & Spiritual Book Discussion	26 Thursday of the Great Canon 6:00pm Orthros & Great Canon of St. Andrew	27 6:00pm Akathist Hymn	28
29 Sunday of St. Mary of Egypt 9:15am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy (Sunday School following Communion) 12:00pm Fellowship 1:00pm Bible Study / Youth Greek School	30	31 5:00pm Great Compline				
		Fasting Guide as prescribed by the Church:	<i>This color denotes a Strict Fast Day (basically, vegan/dry eating)</i>	<i>This color denotes an Oil + Wine permissible Fasting day, yet still vegan</i>	<i>This color denotes a Fish permissible Fasting Day, but without meat and dairy products</i>	<i>This color denotes a Cheese permissible Fasting Day, but without meat products</i>

April 2026



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 5:45pm 9th Hour & Pre-Sanctified Liturgy 7:15pm Light Lenten Meal & Spiritual Book Discussion	2	3	4 Lazarus Saturday 9:30am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy 12:00-2:00pm Youth Retreat with Lenten Pancakes 2:00pm Great Vespers
5 Palm Sunday 9:15am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy Procession of the Palms 12:00pm Fellowship 2:00pm Bridegroom Service	6 Holy Monday 7:00pm Bridegroom Service	7 Holy Tuesday 7:00pm Bridegroom Service	8 Holy Wednesday 9:30am Pre-Sanctified Liturgy 5:30pm Orthros of Holy Thursday & Holy Unction	9 Holy Thursday 9:30am Vesperal Liturgy 6:00pm 12 Gospels - Passion Service	10 Holy Friday 9:30am Royal Hours 3:00pm Apokathilosis 7:00pm Epataphios Service	11 Holy Saturday 9:30am Vesperal Liturgy 11:00pm Orthros & Divine Liturgy for the Anastasi - Resurrection Service
12 Great and Holy Pascha 12:00pm Agape Vespers 1:00pm Pascha Picnic & Easter Egg Hunt	13 Bright Monday	14	15	16	17 Life-Giving Spring of Theotokos 9:30am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy	18
19 Thomas Sunday 9:15am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy (Sunday School following Communion) 12:00pm Fellowship 1:00pm Bible Study / Youth Greek School	20	21	22 5:30pm Great Vespers 6:30pm Introduction to the Orthodox Church Class	23 St. George 9:30am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy 12:00pm Orthodox Book Study at Taste & See 6:45 Parish Council Meeting	24	25 5:00pm Great Vespers
26 Sunday of the Myrrh-Bearing Women 9:15am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy (Sunday School following Communion) 12:00pm Fellowship 1:00pm Youth Greek School	27	28	29 5:30pm Great Vespers 6:30pm Introduction to the Orthodox Church Class	30 10:00am Orthodox Book Study @ Taste & See		
		Fasting Guide as prescribed by the Church:	<i>This color denotes a Strict Fast Day (basically, vegan/dry eating)</i>	<i>This color denotes an Oil + Wine permissible Fasting day, yet still vegan</i>	<i>This color denotes a Fish permissible Fasting Day, but without meat and dairy products</i>	<i>This color denotes a Cheese permissible Fasting Day, but without meat products</i>

May 2026



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 11:00am-7:00pm Spring Fling & Youth/Philoptochos Yard Sale 5:00pm Great Vespers
3 Sunday of the Paralytic 9:15am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy (Sunday School following Communion) 12:00pm Fellowship 1:00pm Bible Study / Youth Greek School	4	5	6 Mid Pentecost	7	8	9 5:00pm Great Vespers
10 Sunday of the Samaritan Woman 9:15am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy (Sunday School following Communion) 12:00pm Fellowship 1:00pm Youth Greek School	11	12	13 5:30pm Vespers 6:30pm Introduction to the Orthodox Church Class	14 10:00am Orthodox Book Study @ Taste & See 6:45pm Parish Council Meeting	15	16 5:00pm Great Vespers
17 Sunday of the Blind Man 9:15am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy (Sunday School following Communion—Last Day for School Year) 12:00pm Fellowship 1:00pm Bible Study	18	19	20 Leave-taking of Pascha 9:30am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy 5:30pm Great Vespers 6:30pm Introduction to the Orthodox Church Class	21 Holy Ascension St. Constantine & Helen 9:30am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy	22	23
24 Fathers of the 1st Council 9:15am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy 12:00pm Fellowship	25 MEMORIAL DAY OFFICE CLOSED	26	27 3:00—7:00pm Blood Drive 5:30pm Vespers 6:30pm Introduction to the Orthodox Church Class	28 10:00am Orthodox Book Study @ Taste & See	29	30 Saturday of Souls 9:30am Orthros 10:30am Divine Liturgy & Memorial Service 5:00pm Great Vespers
31 Holy Pentecost 8:45am Orthros 10:00am Divine Liturgy (Sunday School following Communion) 11:30am Kneeling Vespers 12:30pm Fellowship 1:00pm Youth Greek School (Last Day for School Year)		Fasting Guide as prescribed by the Church:	<i>This color denotes a Strict Fast Day (basically, vegan/dry eating)</i>	<i>This color denotes an Oil + Wine permissible Fasting day, yet still vegan</i>	<i>This color denotes a Fish permissible Fasting Day, but without meat and dairy products</i>	<i>This color denotes a Cheese permissible Fasting Day, but without meat products</i>

Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church
859 First Street
Macon, Georgia 31201